**BRUCE Braley (D-IA) RAPID RESPONSE MATRIX**

[**Out-Of-Touch – Tone Deaf Remarks**](#Out_Of_Touch)

[**Out-Of-Touch – Texas Trial Lawyer Fundraiser**](#Out_of_Touch_Texas)

[**Trial Lawyer – Favoring Out-Of-State Interests**](#Trial_Lawyer_Out_of_state)

[**Trial Lawyer – Suits Against The University Of Northern Iowa**](#Trial_Lawyer_UNI)

[**Trial Lawyer – Suing Iowa Businesses And Communities**](#Trial_Lawyer_Iowa_Biz)

[**Trial Lawyer – Frivolous Suits**](#Trial_Lawyer_Frivolous)

[**Trial Lawyer – Lobbying For Trial Lawyer Interests**](#Trial_Lawyer_Lobby)

[**Trial Lawyer – Trial Lawyers Are Braley’s Top Donors**](#Trial_Lawyer_Top_Donors)

[**Radical Liberal – Pelosi**](#Radical_Liberal)

[**Radical Liberal – Obama**](#Radical_Liberal_Obama)

[**Radical Liberal – Public Option**](#Radical_Liberal_PublicOption)

[**Radical Liberal – Cap And Trade**](#Radical_Liberal_CapTrade)

[**Radical Liberal –Anti-War**](#Radical_Liberal_AntiWar)

[**Radical Liberal – Abortion**](#Radical_Liberal_Abortion)

[**Radical Liberal – Support From National Democrats**](#Radical_Liberal_NationalDems)

**Radical Liberal – Hurting Small Businesses**

[**Campaign Finance**](#campaign_finance)

[**Minimum Wage**](#Minimum_Wage)

[**Farm Bill**](#Farm_Bill)

[**Social Security & Medicare**](#SS_and_Medicare)

[**Education**](#Education)

[**Immigration – Braley’s Incoherent Solution**](#Immigration_incoherent)

[**Immigration – Immigration Reform**](#Immigration_reform)

[**Immigration – Drivers Licenses**](#Immigration_drivers_licesnse)

[**Immigration – Votes**](#Immigration_votes)

[**Veterans – Missed Hearings**](#Veterans_Hearings)

[**Veterans – Shinseki’s Resignation**](#Veterans_Shinseki)

[**2014 EPA Regulations**](#EPA) **– Proposed Rule**

[**2014 EPA Regulations – RFS**](#EPA_RFS)

[**2014 EPA Regulations – “Ditch The Rule”**](#EPA_Water)

[**EPA – Votes Against Limiting Regulation**](#EPA_Against_Regulating)

[**Energy – Braley’s Oil Investments**](#Energy_Oil_Investments)

[**Energy – Rising Costs For Iowans**](#Energy_Rising_costs)

[**ObamaCare – Braley’s Leadership**](#ObamaCare_Leadership)

[**ObamaCare – Bad For Iowa**](#ObamaCare_Bad_for_IA)

[**ObamaCare – Bad For Small Business**](#ObamaCare_Bad_for_Biz)

[**Foreign Policy – General Praise For Obama**](#Foreign_Policy_General_Praise)

[**Foreign Policy – Criticism Of Bush**](#Foreign_Policy_Criticism_of_Bush)

[**Foreign Policy – Iraq**](#Iraq)

[**Foreign Policy –Iran**](#Foreign_Policy_Iran)

[**Foreign Policy – Pakistan**](#Foregn_policy_Pakistan)

[**Foreign Policy – Afghanistan**](#Afghanistan)

[**Foreign Policy – Libya**](#Libya)

[**Foreign Policy – Syria, ISIS, ISIL**](#Syria)

[**Foreign Policy – Surge Strategy (2007-2008)**](#Foreign_Policy_Iraq_Surge)

[**Foreign Policy – Bowe Bergdahl**](#Foreign_Policy_Bowe_bergdahl)

[**Foreign Policy – Guantanamo Bay**](#Foriegn_Policy_Gitmo)

[**Foreign Policy – Votes On Detainees**](#Foreign_Policy_detainees)

[**Foreign Policy – “Mission Accomplished” Statements**](#Foriegn_Policy_Mission_Accomplished)

[**Foreign Poicy – 2011 Arab Spring**](#Foriegn_Policy_Arab_Spring)

[**Foreign Policy – Russia**](#Russia)

[**Foreign Policy – China**](#Foreign_policy_China)

[**Federal Spending – Budgets**](#Federal_Spending_Budgets)

[**Federal Spending – Stimulus**](#stimulus)

[**Federal Spending – Wall Street Bailout**](#Federal_Spending_bailout)

**OUT OF TOUCH**

*Braley tries to portray himself as a “true Iowan” who is in touch with everyday Iowans, but when not on the stump, Braley has a habit of being tone-deaf.*

**Braley Once Got Into A Dispute With His Neighbor Over Her Therapeutic Chickens**

**In July 2014, Braley Was Accused Of Bringing Litigation Against His Neighbor For Owning Therapeutic Chickens.** “A conservative state blog claimed that Braley is in an alleged dispute with his Holiday Lakes neighbor over the therapeutic chickens she has on her property, which Crossroads alluded to in their statement.” (Abby Smith, “Crossroads Backs Up Ernst During Guard Duty Absence,” [*The Hill*](http://thehill.com/blogs/ballot-box/senate-races/212205-crossroads-defends-ernst-during-guard-duty#ixzz37eG6LbYv  Follow us: @thehill on Twitter | TheHill), 7/14/14)

* **In September 2014, Braley’s Neighbor Announced She Would Be Supporting Braley’s Opponent For Senate, After Decades Of Voting For Democrats.** “The next-door neighbor who Rep. Bruce Braley (D-IA) threatened with legal action over four pet chickens that occasionally wandered into his lawn said she has made up her mind to back the GOP Senate candidate this fall – a break from decades of pulling the lever for Democrats. ‘I do believe I'm going to vote for Joni Ernst. And like I said, I haven't voted for a Republican since the Reagan years,’ Pauline Hampton, Braley's neighbor, told Breitbart News in an exclusive interview.” (Jonathan Strong, “Bruce Braley Neighbor, Lifelong Democrat Threatened Over Backyard Chickens, Backs Joni Ernst In Iowa,” [*Breitbart*](http://www.breitbart.com/Big-Government/2014/09/26/Bruce-Braley-Neighbor-Backs-Joni-Ernst), 9/24/14)

**Braley Attended A Transportation Committee Hearing Because His Own Travel Experiences Were “Frustrating”**

**Braley Testified At A House Transportation Committee Hearing Because His Bad Experiences Were “Very Frustrating.”** “In his off hours, he works out in the House gym and he played in an annual congressional baseball game last summer. His wife and three children are back home in Waterloo. He shares a place in Washington with two other lawmakers, after an unfortunate stint on his own in an apartment with a broken air conditioner and then some nights on a mattress in his office. House members this year rush for flights home on Fridays for brief weekends in their districts, after Democratic leaders decreed an end to the three-day workweeks set by the GOP-controlled Congress. Braley faced panicky Fridays this fall trying to make it home for his son's marching band appearances. ‘We had a hearing on airline delays in the Transportation Committee and I wanted to be a witness,’ Braley said. ‘The sheer volume of trips I take, so many bad experiences - it's very frustrating.’” (Norman Jane, “Freshman Lawmakers Contrast In Styles,” *The Des Moines Register*, 11/11/07)

**Braley Told An Iowa Voter That He Was A Farmer**

**VIDEO: During A Fourth Of July Weekend Parade, Braley Told An Iowa Voter That He Was A Farmer.** WOMAN: "We're farmers." Braley: "So am I." WOMAN: "But so is Grassley," Braley: "So am I." (“Trial Lawyer Bruce Braley Tells Voter He Is A Farmer,” [YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xZ9K6GD4LEQ), Uploaded 7/7/14)

* **Campaign Aides Said That Braley Misheard The Woman.** “His campaign aides say it was a simple mistake and that he thought the woman said "We're for farmers" and he was simply replying to that statement. “ (“Controversy Stirs Over Braley Comment,” [KGAN](http://www.cbs2iowa.com/news/features/top-stories/stories/controversy-stirs-over-braley-comment-28207.shtml), 7/8/14)

**In 2006, Braley Said That With America Engaged In War, “The Average Citizen Has No Sense Of Sacrifice”**

**In 2006, Braley Told *The Des Moines Register*, “Now That We Have An Enormous War, The Average Citizen Has No Sense Of Sacrifice.”** “Federal budget: Americans have lost a sense of shared sacrifice, Braley said. ‘Now that we have an enormous war, the average citizen has no sense of sacrifice.’ And that's one of the problems contributing to the out-of-control federal deficit, he said, pointing out that the current Congress has turned the budget surpluses of the 1990s into the largest budget deficits in history. The country needs some fiscal discipline, he said.” (Dominick Andie, “Lawyer Works To Bring Winning Case To Voters; Election 2006: U.S. House; The Race: 1st District, Democratic Primary,” *The Des Moines Register*, 5/27/06)

**In 2012, Braley Said The House Gym “Is One Of The Most Important Places I Go”**

**VIDEO: In 2012, Braley Told *The Des Moines Register* That The HouseGym “Is One Of The Most Important Places I Go.”** Braley: “The problem in Washington is people don’t trust each other. And the reason they don’t trust each other is they don’t spend enough time trying to get to know each other. And I’ve said this before: one of the most important places I go is to the House gym. Because down there I get to meet people outside of the floor. I get to learn about what they did before they came to Congress. I get to learn about why they wanted to run for Congress. I get to learn about their families. And it’s much easier to find partners to solve problems if you know and like the people you’re working with. (Interview With Editorial Board, [*The Des Moines Register*](http://archive.desmoinesregister.com/VideoNetwork/1860747875001/Rep-Bruce-Braley-meets-with-Register-editorial-board), 9/25/12)

**In October 2013, Braley Complained About The House Gym Not Having Towel Service During The Government Shutdown**

**VIDEO: In October 2013, Braley Defended The House Gym Being Open During The Government Shutdown.** BILL PRESS: “Across the board, 800,000 federal employees are furloughed, but the House gym is still open. Not for the staff, the staff gym is closed, but the members’ gym is still open. Why?” Braley: “Well probably because it’s one of the few places where Republicans and Democrats actually talk to each other, Bill. It’s ironic because I’ve been telling people that was the best place for me to develop relationships with my colleagues. Down there you can find out what people did before they came to Congress. You can find out about their families, you can talk to them about areas of common interest. I find it ironic that there is this big push to shut down the House gym when it’s one of the rare places where people come together and actually talk about how we can build relationships which is the only way we’re going to get out this.” (The Bill Press Show, [Interview With Bruce Braley](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YZhrjwh1LJg), 10/9/13)

**In 2014, Braley Said There Is A “Constant Struggle” Between Being In Washington And Connecting With Constituents**

**VIDEO: In An Interview With *The Des Moines Register* Braley Said Gridlock In Congress Is Due To “A Constant Struggle” To Both Work In Washington And Connect With Constituents.** “Now there is a constant struggle between doing your job, being back in your district or your state, connecting with your constituents and because of that members have less time to get to know each other and less time to build those bonds of trust that are absolutely critical.” (Editorial Board, [*The Des Moines Register*](http://www.desmoinesregister.com/videos/news/politics/elections/2014/05/23/9524497/), 5/23/14)

**Braley Compared Being A Congressman To Being A Teacher, Janitor, And Emergency Responder**

**VIDEO: At A 2011 IAFF Conference, Braley Compared Being A Congressman To Being A Police Officer, Teacher, Janitor, And Emergency Responder.** Braley: “My name is Bruce Braley and I am proud to be a public employee. I don’t know about you, but I am damn sick and tired of hearing public employees blamed for all the fiscal problems in this country. Instead of blaming public employees, we should be thanking them. Thanking them for getting up in the middle of the night to plow our roads, teaching our children, guarding our prisons, patrolling our streets, running our public transportations, cleaning the toilets in our public buildings and getting up in the middle of the night to battle fires in our homes, our businesses and to save our lives as emergency responders.” (Rep. Bruce Braley, [Remarks AT 2011 IAFF Legislative Conference](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1YAh17lqTLQ), Washington, D.C., 3/14/11)

**In 2011 Braley Admitted To Talking Down To His Constituents To Avoid “Elitism”**

**AUDIO**: **In 2011, Braley Said He Responded To “An Impression That There Is An Elitism Among Progressive Policies” By Talking To Voters “In Terms They Can Understand.”** Braley: “I think part of the problems that progressives have faced is, at times, there has been an impression that there is an elitism among progressive policies that wants to ignore the realities of what’s going on in places between the east coast and the west coast. And, look, I face this every time I do a town hall meeting. I listen to the concerns of people. You know, from what you’ve done your entire life is that the biggest concern people have is that nobody is listening to them. And by engaging voters and talking about why you are a proud, progressive, populist and what that means in terms they can understand, that’s how you connect with voters and show them the false policies that are being offered to them and show them the policies that don’t lead to an economic boom for the middle class.” (“Papantonio: What A Strong Progressive Should Look Like,” [Ring Of Fire Radio](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tGltgM0iHFk), 3/5/11)

**In 2013, Braley Was Criticized For Tweeting “#TrailOfTears”**

**VIDEO: In March 2013** **CNN Criticized Braley’s Use Of The Hashtag “#TrailOfTears”.** REPORTER: “They need to at least look things up, or something. I mean, if you don’t know what the Trail of Tears, and you’re using it sort of colloquially in some sense, you might want to just Google it and say, ‘oh, that doesn’t fit there.’ They’re just tweeting before they think and it’s a bad idea.” (CNN’s [The Situation Room](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dTP6hb2r2UE), 3/29/13)

**Braley Compared Being A Trial Lawyer To Farm Work**

**AUDIO In April 2014, Braley Said, On A Conference With Reporters, Doing Work As A Lawyer And Sharing A Meal With Clients Was “No Different” Than Doing Manual Labor On The Farm And Sitting Down To Dinner.** Braley “One of my highest honors as a lawyer was being invited to the home of my clients to share a meal. It was no different than putting up hay all day in Poweshiek County and sitting down to dinner at noon with the farm family I was helping that day.” (Rep. Bruce Braley, [Remarks On A Conference Call](https://soundcloud.com/americarising/bruce-braley-compares-his-work), 4/3/14)

* **During His Conference Call With Reporters, Braley Said That He Doesn’t Question Grassley’s “Qualifications To Serve As Chairman.”** Braley “As everyone knows, Senator Grassley and I have differences on some issues. And we have different life experiences and backgrounds, as well as many things in common. He has put in many years of service on the Senate Judiciary Committee, and I don't question his qualifications to serve as chairman” (Jennifer Jacobs, “Here Are Bruce Braley's 'I Made A Mistake' Remarks In Full,” [*The Des Moines Register*](http://www.desmoinesregister.com/story/news/politics/elections/2014/04/03/braley-iowa-farmer-gaffe/7265377/), 4/3/14)

**Braley Said That His Comments About Grassley Reflected “Just A Difference Of Who We Are And Where We’ve Come From.”** “Asked to explain what he was thinking when he made the comments, to a group of trial lawyers at a Jan. 23 fundraiser in Texas, Braley said: ‘I was trying to convey that we have a different life experiences and backgrounds. ... It's just a difference of who we are and where we've come from.’” (Jennifer Jacobs, “Bruce Braley: 'We All Say Things That We Later Regret,’” [*The Des Moines Register*](http://www.desmoinesregister.com/story/news/politics/elections/2014/04/03/braley-iowa-farmer-grassley-gaffe/7260675/), 4/3/14)

**In 2006, Braley Said That With America Engaged In War, “The Average Citizen Has No Sense Of Sacrifice”**

**In 2006, Braley Told *The Des Moines Register*, “Now That We Have An Enormous War, The Average Citizen Has No Sense Of Sacrifice.”** “Federal budget: Americans have lost a sense of shared sacrifice, Braley said. ‘Now that we have an enormous war, the average citizen has no sense of sacrifice.’ And that's one of the problems contributing to the out-of-control federal deficit, he said, pointing out that the current Congress has turned the budget surpluses of the 1990s into the largest budget deficits in history. The country needs some fiscal discipline, he said.” (Dominick Andie, “Lawyer Works To Bring Winning Case To Voters; Election 2006: U.S. House; The Race: 1st District, Democratic Primary,” *The Des Moines Register*, 5/27/06)

*In early 2014 Braley was caught on camera at a fundraiser in Texas pandering to trial lawyers by insulting farmers and mocking Iowa Senator Chuck Grassley for not having a law degree.*

**At A 2014 South Texas Fundraiser, Braley Mocked Sen. Chuck Grassley (R-IA) As “A Farmer From Iowa Who Never Went To Law School”**

**VIDEO: At A 2014 South Texas Fundraiser, Braley Mocked Sen. Chuck Grassley (R-IA) As “A Farmer From Iowa Who Never Went To Law School.”** Braley: “To put this in stark contrast, if you help me win this race you may have someone with your background, your experience, your voice, someone who’s been literally fighting tort reform for thirty years, in a visible or public way, on the Senate Judiciary Committee. Or, you might have a farmer from Iowa who never went to law school, never practiced law, serving as the next Chair of the Senate Judiciary Committee. Because, if Democrats lose the majority, Chuck Grassley will be the Chair of the Senate Judiciary Committee.” (Rep. Bruce Braley, [Remarks At A Trial Lawyer Fundraiser](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QH51LNpqZ94), South Texas, Uploaded 3/25/14)

**In An Editorial, The Publisher of A Local Iowa Newspaper Deemed Braley “A Condescending, Elitist Turd.”** “The man who wants to represent all Iowans as its next U.S. Senator, Democrat Bruce Braley, has just proven himself to be a condescending, elitist turd. It was no coincidence at all that a YouTube video of Braley milking money from big-money Texas trial lawyers appeared on Ag Day, Tuesday, March 25.” (Dave Paxton, “Trial Lawyer Braley Shows His True Colors,” [*Albia Union-Republican*](http://www.albianews.com/opinion/article_00c360fe-b682-11e3-bd79-001a4bcf887a.html), 3/28/14)

**A March 2014 Editorial Said “It’s Hard Not To Hear Braley Pandering” In His Comments Against Sen. Grassley.** “But it’s hard not to hear Braley pandering to the stereotype of a ‘(dumb) farmer’ in his denunciation of a senior Iowa senator who is not even running this election cycle.” (Editorial, “Our View: Braley Brouhaha Portends An Ugly Campaign To Come,” [*Iowa City Press-Citizen*](http://www.press-citizen.com/article/20140328/OPINION03/303280014/Our-View-Braley-brouhaha-portends-an-ugly-campaign-come?utm_medium=referral&utm_source=t.co&gcheck=1&nclick_check=1), 3/27/14)

**The *Iowa State Daily*, Braley’s Alma Mater Newspaper, Wrote That Iowans Deserve “A Representative That Is Prepared To Understand And Work Tirelessly To Promote The Values And Needs Of His Or Her Constituents. Not For Donors In Another State.”** “Iowans don't need to hear that Braley has ‘tremendous respect for Iowa farmers’ after he has degraded them to a room full of donors. They need someone that will show that respect through their actions everyday and everywhere. Not only that, but words that a politician believes they are saying in private — although no words are truly private these days — seem to have that much more of a sting, since they are filled with more honesty than a public slip of the tongue. Iowans deserve a representative that is prepared to understand and work tirelessly to promote the values and needs of his or her constituents. Not for donors in another state.” (Editorial, “Braley Insults Iowans With Comments,” [*Iowa State Daily*](http://www.iowastatedaily.com/opinion/article_25a20f3e-b460-11e3-a1c0-0019bb2963f4.html), 3/26/14)

**TRIAL LAWYER**

*As a trial lawyer, Braley has represented out-of-state interests and sued Iowa businesses.*

**In 2000, Braley Sued An Iowa Business For A Minnesota-Based Company**

**In 2000, Braley Represented Roger Schwartz and Sons, Inc. In A Suit Against J.M. Masonry & Construction Company.** (*PWR Roger Schwartz Et Al V Estate Of Richard Shields Et Al*, No. 02091 LACV001184, Bremer County District Court; 2000 IA, 3/9/00)

**Roger Schwartz And Sons, Inc. Is Based In Minnesota.** “The plaintiff Roger Schwartz and Sons, Inc. (Schwartz) is a corporation organized under the laws of the state of Minnesota.” (*PWR Roger Schwartz Et Al V Estate Of Richard Shields Et Al*, No. 02091 LACV001184, Bremer County District Court; 2000 IA, 3/9/00)

**J.M. Masonry & Construction Is An Iowa Company.** “J.M Masonry & Construction, Inc. (J.M. Masonry) is an Iowa corporation with its principal place of business located in Coralville, Iowa.” (*PWR Roger Schwartz Et Al V Estate Of Richard Shields Et Al*, No. 02091 LACV001184, Bremer County District Court; 2000 IA, 3/9/00)

*On three separate occasions, Braley has brought suit against University of Northern Iowa.*

**ANDERSEN V STATE OF IOWA**

**In 2001 Braley Filed Suit Against That State Of Iowa On Behalf Of A University Of Northern Iowa Student Who Slipped And Fell On Ice**

**In 2001, Braley Filed Suit Against The State Of Iowa On Behalf Of University Of Northern Iowa Student, Kecia Andersen.** “The suit, which was filed against the interim director of library services and the State of Iowa, stemmed from a fall Anderson took Feb. 8, 2001, on an icy sidewalk outside the library during a winter storm.” (Ed Tibbetts, “GOP Takes Aim At Braley’s Legal Work,” [*Quad-City Times*](http://qctimes.com/news/local/gop-takes-aim-at-braley-s-legal-work/article_200f53a2-83ad-5381-92d2-f640533d2423.html), 8/9/06)

* **Andersen Had Fallen On Ice Outside The University’s Library And Broke Her Leg.** “At issue is a lawsuit Braley filed on behalf of a University of Northern Iowa student who was injured in a fall on some ice outside the school’s library five years ago. ‘He’ll sue anybody for anything,’ U.S. Rep. Tom Reynolds, R-N.Y., said in a conference call with reporters. Reynolds is chairman of the National Republican Congressional Committee, the political arm of House Republicans. As a lawyer from Waterloo, Braley’s profession has been a target for critics since he entered the 1st District race, and Reynolds said Tuesday that the juxtaposition of a ‘trial lawyer’s trial lawyer’ with his opponent, Mike Whalen, a business owner, will weigh in Republicans’ favor on Election Day. Whalen, the founder of Heart of America Restaurants & Inns, is from Bettendorf. Braley’s campaign defended the lawsuit, saying the student, Kecia Anderson, suffered multiple broken bones in her leg and incurred more than $17,000 in medical expenses.” (Ed Tibbetts, “GOP Takes Aim At Braley’s Legal Work,” [*Quad-City Times*](http://qctimes.com/news/local/gop-takes-aim-at-braley-s-legal-work/article_200f53a2-83ad-5381-92d2-f640533d2423.html), 8/9/06)

**Andersen Claimed The University Was At Fault For Not Removing The Ice.** “The student claimed the university was at fault for not removing the ice. The fall took place as she left the library near midnight.” (Ed Tibbetts, “GOP Takes Aim At Braley’s Legal Work,” [*Quad-City Times*](http://qctimes.com/news/local/gop-takes-aim-at-braley-s-legal-work/article_200f53a2-83ad-5381-92d2-f640533d2423.html), 8/9/06)

**Andersen Ultimately Lost The Suit**

**The District Court Found Against Andersen.** “Anderson lost her case in district court, but she won a partial victory before the state Court of Appeals.”(Ed Tibbetts, “GOP Takes Aim At Braley’s Legal Work,” [*Quad-City Times*](http://qctimes.com/news/local/gop-takes-aim-at-braley-s-legal-work/article_200f53a2-83ad-5381-92d2-f640533d2423.html), 8/9/06)

**Andersen Appealed Her Case And Won “Partial Victory.”** “Anderson lost her case in district court, but she won a partial victory before the state Court of Appeals.”(Ed Tibbetts, “GOP Takes Aim At Braley’s Legal Work,” [*Quad-City Times*](http://qctimes.com/news/local/gop-takes-aim-at-braley-s-legal-work/article_200f53a2-83ad-5381-92d2-f640533d2423.html), 8/9/06)

**The Iowa Supreme Court Reversed The Appeals Court Ruling, Finding Against Andersen.** “Eventually, the Iowa Supreme Court reversed the appeals court and found against her.” (Ed Tibbetts, “GOP Takes Aim At Braley’s Legal Work,” [*Quad-City Times*](http://qctimes.com/news/local/gop-takes-aim-at-braley-s-legal-work/article_200f53a2-83ad-5381-92d2-f640533d2423.html), 8/9/06)

**The Controversy In The Case Centered On Technical Legal Matters**

**According To The *Quad-City Times* The Controversy In The Case Centered On Technical Questions Around Initial Jury Instructions And Whether Or Not The University Was Shielded By Immunity.** “Much of the legal controversy centered on the initial jury instructions and a dispute over whether the library director’s decision not to close the facility due to the storm was a “discretionary function” shielded by the state’s immunity law.”(Ed Tibbetts, “GOP Takes Aim At Braley’s Legal Work,” [*Quad-City Times*](http://qctimes.com/news/local/gop-takes-aim-at-braley-s-legal-work/article_200f53a2-83ad-5381-92d2-f640533d2423.html), 8/9/06)

**KERR V UNI ET AL**

**In 2000, Braley Filed Suit Against The University Of Iowa On Behalf Of “A Professor Who Suffered Dizziness Walking Near Regularly Applied Fertilizer”**

**In 2000, Braley Filed Suit Against The University Of Iowa On Behalf Of “A Professor Who Suffered Dizziness Walking Near Regularly Applied Fertilizer.”** “The ad says the suit was filed on behalf of ‘a professor who suffered dizziness walking near regularly applied fertilizer.’ The suit was filed in 2000.” (Ed Tibbetts, “UNI Professor Objects To Ad Citing Her Case,” [*Quad-City Times*](http://qctimes.com/news/local/uni-professor-objects-to-ad-citing-her-case/article_13d3bd53-e653-5e2f-9b3c-060f5d875ef1.html), 10/6/06)

**According To The Petition, Kerr Was “Diagnosed With A Disability Triggered By Lawn Chemicals.”** “Kerr, who lives in Cedar Falls, was diagnosed with a disability triggered by the lawn chemicals, according to the petition filed in the lawsuit, which also said the professor suffered from ‘upper respiratory and lung burning, eye burning, dizziness and loss of her voice.’” (Ed Tibbetts, “UNI Professor Objects To Ad Citing Her Case,” [*Quad-City Times*](http://qctimes.com/news/local/uni-professor-objects-to-ad-citing-her-case/article_13d3bd53-e653-5e2f-9b3c-060f5d875ef1.html), 10/6/06)

**The Case Was Settled Out Of Court And No Monetary Damages Were Paid To Kerr**

**The University Contested The Suit, But It Was Settled Out Of Court.** “The university contested the suit, but it was settled out of court.” (Ed Tibbetts, “UNI Professor Objects To Ad Citing Her Case,” [*Quad-City Times*](http://qctimes.com/news/local/uni-professor-objects-to-ad-citing-her-case/article_13d3bd53-e653-5e2f-9b3c-060f5d875ef1.html), 10/6/06)

**The University Said That It Modified Its Fertilizer Spraying Program, But Paid No Monetary Damages To Kerr.** “The spraying program was modified, but no monetary damages were paid, according to a settlement agreement and an official representing the university.” (Ed Tibbetts, “UNI Professor Objects To Ad Citing Her Case,” [*Quad-City Times*](http://qctimes.com/news/local/uni-professor-objects-to-ad-citing-her-case/article_13d3bd53-e653-5e2f-9b3c-060f5d875ef1.html), 10/6/06)

**Braley Said He Took The Case Pro Bono**

**Braley Claims He Wasn’t “Paid A Dime” And Took The Case Pro Bono.** “Braley also has objected to the ad, saying he wasn’t “paid a dime” for the case. Kerr said Braley took the case on a “pro bono” basis.” (Ed Tibbetts, “UNI Professor Objects To Ad Citing Her Case,” [*Quad-City Times*](http://qctimes.com/news/local/uni-professor-objects-to-ad-citing-her-case/article_13d3bd53-e653-5e2f-9b3c-060f5d875ef1.html), 10/6/06)

**PATTERSON V IOWA STATE BOARD OF REGENTS, UNIVERSITY OF NORTHERN IOWA ET AL**

**In July 2003, Jacqueline Patterson Filed Suit Against The Iowa State Board Of Regents, The University Of Northern Iowa, Et Al.**

**In July 2003, Jacqueline Patterson Filed Suit Against The Iowa State Board Of Regents, The University Of Northern Iowa, Et Al.** (*Patterson v Iowa State Board Of Regents, University Of Northern Iowa Et Al*, 6:03cv2033, United States District Court Of Northern Iowa (Eastern Division), 7/10/03)

***Details Of The Case***

**Patterson Filed Suit Against The Defendants For Violating The Fair Housing Act.** (Nexis Courtlink, Accessed 8/11/14)

* **The Plaintiff’s Complaint Claims That The University Discriminated Against Patterson By Failing To Accommodate Patterson’s Handicap, Changing The Locks On Her Apartment And Terminating Her Lease.** “16. The acts, patterns, or practices of discrimination include but are not limited to failing to make reasonable accommodations for Ms. Patterson’s handicap; excluding Jacqueline Patterson, Tristan Patterson, and Jade Patterson from the dwelling unit by changing the locks of such dwelling unit; and terminating her lease.” (*Patterson v Iowa State Board Of Regents, University Of Northern Iowa Et Al*, 6:03cv2033, United States District Court Of Northern Iowa (Eastern Division), 7/10/03)
* **Patterson Was Living In University Provided Housing.** “Plaintiff Jacqueline Patterson rented a dwelling unit owned and operated by the University of Northern Iowa under the direction of Lyn Redington and the management of Lynn Perigo. This dwelling is popularly described as 3017 Indiana Street, Cedar Falls, Black Hawk County, Iowa.” (*Patterson v Iowa State Board Of Regents, University Of Northern Iowa Et Al*, 6:03cv2033, United States District Court Of Northern Iowa (Eastern Division), 7/10/03)
* **The Complaint Also States That The University Prevented Patterson From Speaking In Class Or Enrolling In Certain Classes Or Allowing Her Service Animal To Accompany Her To University Buildings.** “21. The acts of discrimination include but are not limited to failing to make reasonable accommodations for Jacqueline Patterson’s disability; excluding Jacqueline Patterson, Tristan Patterson, and Jade Patterson from the dwelling unit by changing the locks of such dwelling unit because of Ms. Patterson’s disability and her use of a service animal; terminating her lease; refusing to allow Jacqueline Patterson to speak in in class or register for or enroll in certain classes; refusing to allow Jacqueline Patterson’s service animal or assistive animal to enter the offices of her academic department; and refusing to allow Jacqueline Patterson’s service animal or assistive animal to accompany her to speech and language therapy provided by the University of Northern Iowa’s Roy Eblen Speech & Hearing Clinic.” (*Patterson v Iowa State Board Of Regents, University Of Northern Iowa Et Al*, 6:03cv2033, United States District Court Of Northern Iowa (Eastern Division), 7/10/03)

**The Plaintiff’s Complaint Described Patterson As Having “A Combination Of Impairments That Results In Speech, Motor, And Mobility Impairments.”** “Ms. Patterson has a combination of impairments that results in speech, motor, and mobility impairments.” (*Patterson v Iowa State Board Of Regents, University Of Northern Iowa Et Al*, 6:03cv2033, United States District Court Of Northern Iowa (Eastern Division), 7/10/03)

* **NOTE: News Reports On Patterson Unrelated To This Case Note That She Suffers From Cerebral Palsy.** (Kathleen Miles, “Mom With Cerebral Palsy Transformed By Pot (VIDEO),” [*The Huffington Post*](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2013/12/10/mom-cerebral-palsy-pot_n_4413530.html), 1/25/14)

**The Plaintiff’s Complaint Stated That Patterson “Needed And Used A Service Animal.”** “At all times pertinent to this action, she needed and used a service animal or assistive animal and was involved in training this and other service animals.” (*Patterson v Iowa State Board Of Regents, University Of Northern Iowa Et Al*, 6:03cv2033, United States District Court Of Northern Iowa (Eastern Division), 7/10/03)

* **Patterson’s Service Animal, A Dog Named Buddy, “Assisted In Various Activities Of Daily Living.”** “Her service animal was a dog named ‘Buddy.’ Buddy assisted in various activities of daily living, including carrying and retrieving objects such as textbooks.” (*Patterson v Iowa State Board Of Regents, University Of Northern Iowa Et Al*, 6:03cv2033, United States District Court Of Northern Iowa (Eastern Division), 7/10/03)

**On September 28, 2004, Judge John Jarvey Signed A Court Order Acknowledging That The Case Had Been Settled Before Trial.** “It has been brought to the court’s attention that this action has been settled by the parties and that no further proceedings are contemplated.” (*Patterson v Iowa State Board Of Regents, University Of Northern Iowa Et Al*, 6:03cv2033, United States District Court Of Northern Iowa (Eastern Division), 7/10/03)

**On December 13, 2004 The Case Was Dismissed.** (*Patterson v Iowa State Board Of Regents, University Of Northern Iowa Et Al*, 6:03cv2033, United States District Court Of Northern Iowa (Eastern Division), 7/10/03)

***Jacqueline Patterson***

**Patterson Was A Student At University Of Northern Iowa In 2001.** “12. Plaintiff Jacqueline Patterson was a student at the University of Northern Iowa through the end of the summer session of 2001.” (*Patterson v Iowa State Board Of Regents, University Of Northern Iowa Et Al*, 6:03cv2033, United States District Court Of Northern Iowa (Eastern Division), 7/10/03)

* **NOTE: According To A Letter Addressed To Pattterson Included In Case Documents, Patterson’s Name Was Jacqueline Crimmings While Attending UNI.** (*Patterson v Iowa State Board Of Regents, University Of Northern Iowa Et Al*, 6:03cv2033, United States District Court Of Northern Iowa (Eastern Division), 7/10/03)

**At The Time Of The Suit Patterson Was A Resident Of Missouri.** “3. Plaintiff Jacqueline Patterson is a citizen of the United States who resides in Missouri.” (*Patterson v Iowa State Board Of Regents, University Of Northern Iowa Et Al*, 6:03cv2033, United States District Court Of Northern Iowa (Eastern Division), 7/10/03)

**Patterson Has At Least Three Children, Tristan, Jade and Ulysses.** “5. Plaintiffs Tristan Patterson and Jade Patterson are minor children of Plaintiff Jacqueline Patterson, and are citizens of the United States who reside in Missouri. At the time of the acts of which the three Plaintiffs complain, Jacqueline Patterson was pregnant with her third child, Ulysses Patterson.” *(Patterson v Iowa State Board Of Regents, University Of Northern Iowa Et Al*, 6:03cv2033, United States District Court Of Northern Iowa (Eastern Division), 7/10/03)

**Jacqueline Patterson Has Become A Vocal Marijuana Rights Activist**

**In 2014, *The Huffington Post* Reported That “Jacqueline Patterson Almost Lost Custody Of Her Four Children Because She Smokes Marijuana.”** (Kathleen Miles, “Mom With Cerebral Palsy Transformed By Pot (VIDEO),” [*The Huffington Post*](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2013/12/10/mom-cerebral-palsy-pot_n_4413530.html), 1/25/14)

* **In Her Home State Of Missouri, Medical Marijuana Use Is Not Protected And Was Advised To Leave Missouri By Child Protective Services.** “But in Kansas City, Missouri, where Patterson used to live, medical marijuana is not protected. She was reported for cannabis possession, and a Child Protective Services worker advised her to leave the state before she lost custody of her children.” (Kathleen Miles, “Mom With Cerebral Palsy Transformed By Pot (VIDEO),” [*The Huffington Post*](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2013/12/10/mom-cerebral-palsy-pot_n_4413530.html), 1/25/14)
* **Patterson Moved To California In 2007.** “She moved to California in 2007 and won a court case arguing that her consumption of marijuana was strictly for medicinal purposes.”

**Patterson Says She First Smoked At Age 14 And That Smoking Marijuana Eases Her Disabilities Caused By Cerebral Palsy.** “‘I — I — I smoked cannabis for the first time when I was 14,’ Patterson said, Pitch reports. ‘For the first time, my muscles were not tense. And words slid from my mouth, from gggghhh — from me at a fluid pace instead of sssss-stuck on my tongue like a g-ghh — like a train wreck.’” (Kathleen Miles, “Mom With Cerebral Palsy Transformed By Pot (VIDEO),” [*The Huffington Post*](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2013/12/10/mom-cerebral-palsy-pot_n_4413530.html), 1/25/14)

**Patterson Appeared In The 2007 Pro-Marijuana Documentary “In Pot We Trust”.** “When Patterson smokes marijuana, she transforms into another woman -- a woman who can speak clearly and use her body more effectively and less painfully, as shown in the video above from the 2007 documentary In Pot We Trust.” (Kathleen Miles, “Mom With Cerebral Palsy Transformed By Pot (VIDEO),” [*The Huffington Post*](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2013/12/10/mom-cerebral-palsy-pot_n_4413530.html), 1/25/14)

**In November 2009, Patterson Testified At A Iowa Board of Pharmacy Hearing On Medical Marijuana.** “Jacqueline Patterson took a deep breath and stared straight out at the crowd. With stops, starts and pauses, she struggled to free the sounds that were hindered by a lifelong stutter. ‘I have been on many prescription medications,’ said Patterson, a 31-year-old from California. ‘Those did not assist me in controlling my stutter nearly as effectively as cannabis.’ The former Iowa resident has used marijuana off and on since she was 14 to treat her stutter and cerebral palsy symptoms. When she uses marijuana, she said, the severity of her stutter decreases by about 90 percent. But, she said, doing so makes her a criminal in most states, including Iowa and Nebraska, and in the eyes of the federal government. Medical marijuana is legal in California. The Iowa Board of Pharmacy held its fourth and final public hearing on medical marijuana Wednesday in Council Bluffs.” (“Should Pot Be Legal?” *The Daily Nonpareil*, 11/5/09)

*As a trial lawyer, Braley has sued Iowa companies and communities.*

**Braley Has Sued Two Iowa Companies In Federal Court**

**In 1994, Braley Sued Viking Pump Co., A Pump Company Based In Cedar Falls, IA.** (*Sands v Iam, et al*, 6:94cv2028, U.S. District - Iowa Northern (Waterloo), 3/23/94)

* **Braley Represented The Plaintiff.** (*Sands v Iam, et al*, 6:94cv2028, U.S. District - Iowa Northern (Waterloo), 3/23/94)

**In 1993, Braley Sued Koehring Crane, A Division Of Terex Cranes, Based In Waverly, IA.** (*Hostetler, et al v Koehring Crane*, 6:93cv2051, U.S. District - Iowa Northern (Waterloo), 8/18/93)

* **Braley Represented The Plaintiff.** (*Hostetler, et al v Koehring Crane*, 6:93cv2051, U.S. District - Iowa Northern (Waterloo), 8/18/93)

**Braley Has Sued Two Public Institutions Of Iowa In Federal Court**

**In 2003, Braley Sued The University Of Northern Iowa.** (*Patterson et al v Iowa State Board of Regents et al*, 6:03cv2033, U.S. District - Iowa Northern, 7/10/03)

* **Braley Represented The Plaintiff.** (*Patterson et al v Iowa State Board of Regents et al*, 6:03cv2033, U.S. District - Iowa Northern, 7/10/03)
* **The Case Was Dismissed.** (*Patterson et al v Iowa State Board of Regents et al*, 6:03cv2033, U.S. District - Iowa Northern, 7/10/03)

**In 1994, Braley Sued Winneshiek County, IA And The City Of Decorah, IA.** (*Seiler v Winneshiek County, et al*, 6:94cv2004, U.S. District - Iowa Northern (Waterloo), 1/11/94)

**NOTE: Braley Has Held Multiple Campaign Events In Decorah.**

**In 1998, Braley Sued Iowa Beef Processors, Inc.**

**In 1998, Braley Sued Iowa Beef Processors, Inc.** (*Ferrell v IBP Inc*, 5:98cv4047, U.S. District - Iowa Northern (Western), 5/13/98)

* **Braley Represented The Plaintiff.** (*Ferrell v IBP Inc*, 5:98cv4047, U.S. District - Iowa Northern (Western), 5/13/98)

**NOTE: Iowa Beef Processors Is Now A Subsidiary Of Tyson Fresh Meats.**

* **Tyson Acquired Iowa Beef Processors In 2001.** “Ending a battle among meat processing giants, Tyson Foods will buy IBP for $3.2 billion in cash and stock in a deal that will make Tyson the world’s largest meat producer and processor.” (Dan Ackman, “Top Of News: Men Of Meat,” [*Forbes*](http://www.forbes.com/2001/01/02/0102topnews.html), 1/2/2001)

**Iowa Beef Processors Is The Largest Packers Of Beef In The Nation.** “IBP is the nation’s biggest beef packer and its number two pork processor.” (Dan Ackman, “Top Of News: Men Of Meat,” [*Forbes*](http://www.forbes.com/2001/01/02/0102topnews.html), 1/2/2001)

*In 2005, Braley sued Wal-Mart for spilled soap posing “unreasonable risk” to a shopper.*

**In 2005 Braley Attempted To Sue Wal-Mart For A Woman’s Slip-And-Fall On Spilled Soap.**

**In 2005 Braley Attempted To Sue Wal-Mart Because Spilled Liquid Soap Presented An “Unreasonable Risk” To Braley’s Client.** “Wal-Mart knew or should have known through exercising reasonable care that the presence of the liquid dish soap on the floor was a condition on Wal-Mart’s premises which posed an unreasonable risk of injury to Wal-Mart’s invitees, including myself.”(*K Mixdorf V Walmart*, No. 01071 LACV096535, Black Hawk County District Court; 2005 IA, 9/5/05)

*While in Washington, Braley has advocated for two bills that make it easier to bring tort suits against manufacturers.*

**In 2010, Braley Authored An Amendment Backed By The AAJ That Would Make It Easier For Consumers To Sue Car Manufacturers**

**In 2010, Braley Authored An Amendment That Would Make It Easier For Consumers To Sue A Car Maker Over A Vehicle That Complies With Federal Safety Standards.** “A congressional proposal that would make it easier for consumers to sue car companies over vehicle defects has touched off a fight between trial lawyers and auto makers and their allies on Capitol Hill. The measure, drafted by Rep. Bruce Braley (D., Iowa), and supported by House Energy and Commerce Committee Chairman Henry Waxman (D., Calif.,) would remove a legal obstacle that makes it difficult for consumers to sue a car maker in state court over a vehicle that complies with federal safety standards.” (Josh Mitchell, “Clash Over Auto-Defect Cases,” [*The Wall Street Journal*](http://online.wsj.com/news/articles/SB10001424052748703890904575296982115092278), 6/10/10)

* **The American Association For Justice, Formerly The Association Of Trial Lawyers Of America, Met With Braley And Supported His Legislation.** “The American Association for Justice, formerly the Association of Trial Lawyers of America, has met with Mr. Braley on the measure and thrown its support behind the bill, said John Bowman, the association's federal-relations director.” (Josh Mitchell, “Clash Over Auto-Defect Cases,” [*The Wall Street Journal*](http://online.wsj.com/news/articles/SB10001424052748703890904575296982115092278), 6/10/10)

**In 2009, Braley Supported Legislation That Would Make It Easier For Consumers To Sue Medical Device Manufacturers**

**On March 5, 2009, Braley Co-Sponsored The Medical Device Safety Act Of 2009.** ([H.R. 1346](http://thomas.loc.gov/cgi-bin/bdquery/z?d111:HR01346:@@@P), Introduced 3/5/09)

* **NOTE: The Bill Was Referred To The Subcommittee On Health.**

**Braley Supported The Medical Device Safety Act Of 2009, “To Ensure That Every American Patient Has The Ability To Hold Manufacturers Of Defective Medical Devices Accountable For Injuries And Deaths Caused By Unsafe Products.”** Braley: “Madam Speaker, I rise in support of the Medical Device Safety Act of 2009. This legislation was introduced today, and I'm proud to be an original cosponsor. The Medical Device Safety Act of 2009 is needed to ensure that every American patient has the ability to hold manufacturers of defective medical devices accountable for injuries and deaths caused by unsafe products. It would also prevent these manufacturers from receiving total immunity from any claims simply by virtue of receiving a Food and Drug Administration device approval. This bill clarifies the intention of Congress to keep American patients safe by maintaining complementary systems to protect consumers through the FDA and American courts.” (Rep. Bruce Braley, [*Congressional Record*](http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/CREC-2009-03-05/html/CREC-2009-03-05-pt1-PgE575.htm), 3/5/09, p. E575)

## *Braley claims his campaign is supported by Iowa donors, but Braley’s top donors are trial lawyers and out-of-state firms.*

**Braley’s Top Contributor, Weitz & Luxenberg, “A Law Firm Specializing In Asbestos Litigation,” Contributed $24,125 To His Campaign.** “Campaign finance records further show some of the top donors to Braley’s campaign are law firms, including the Dallas law firm Waters & Kraus with a donation of $19,350. Weitz & Luxenberg, a law firm specializing in asbestos litigation, made a $24,125 donation to Braley’s campaign. ([Center For Responsive Politics](http://www.opensecrets.org/politicians/contrib.php?cycle=2014&cid=N00027464&type=I&newmem=N" \t "_blank), Accessed 4/4/14; David Yates, “Trial Lawyers Fueling Braley’s Run To Stop ‘Farmer’ From Taking Senate Judiciary Chair,” [*The Southeast Texas Record*](http://setexasrecord.com/news/295167-trial-lawyers-fueling-braleys-run-to-stop-farmer-from-taking-senate-judiciary-chair), 3/17/14)

**Braley Campaign Donor, Herman, Herman & Katz LLC, “Proudly Lists Its Profiteering At The Expense Of The BP Oil Spill As Its Top Area Of Practice.”** “Braley's top campaign donor, the tort law firm Herman, Herman & Katz of New Orleans, proudly lists its profiteering at the expense of the BP oil spill as its top area of practice. And lawyers and environmental lobbies are among Braley's biggest donors, according to OpenSecrets.org.” (Editorial, “Braley's Farmer Insult Symptomatic Of Dems' Elitism,” [*Investors Business Daily*](http://news.investors.com/ibd-editorials/032714-694977-democratic-elitism-at-work-in-braley-insult-against-iowa-farmers.htm), 3/27/14)

**One Of Braley’s Top Five Campaign Contributors, Beasley, Allen Et Al, Filed Suit Against GM For Its Failed Ignition Switch.** “Beasley, Allen, Crow, Methvin, Portis & Miles, P.C., has filed a wrongful death lawsuit on behalf of the Estate of Aubrey Wallace Williams. Ms. Williams, a 32-year-old mother of two, was fatally injured on Dec. 4, 2013, while driving her 2006 Chevrolet Cobalt on Alabama Highway 64 in Lauderdale County, Ala. While operating her Cobalt, the ignition switch failed resulting in a complete loss of power.” ([Center For Responsive Politics](http://www.opensecrets.org/politicians/contrib.php?cycle=2014&cid=N00027464&type=I&newmem=N" \t "_blank), Accessed 4/4/14; Beasley, Allen Et Al, “Beasley Allen Files Wrongful Death Lawsuit Related To GM Ignition Switch Recall,” [Press Release](http://www.beasleyallen.com/news/beasley-allen-files-wrongful-death-lawsuit-related-to-gm-ignition-switch-recall/" \t "_blank), 3/24/14)

**For The 2014 Cycle, Lawyers And Law Firms Have Contributed** **$1,253,348 To Braley’s Senate Campaign.** ([Center For Responsive Politics](http://www.opensecrets.org/politicians/industries.php?type=I&cid=N00027464&newMem=N&recs=20&cycle=2014), Accessed 9/25/14)

**For The 2014, Cycle, Braley Is The Top House Recipient Of Contributions From Lawyers And Law Firms.** ([Center For Responsive Politics](http://www.opensecrets.org/industries/recips.php?ind=K01&cycle=2014&recipdetail=H&mem=Y&sortorder=U), Accessed 9/25/14)

**Over Braley’s Career, Lawyers And Law Firms Have Contributed $4,207,645 To Braley.** ([Center For Responsive Politics](http://www.opensecrets.org/politicians/industries.php?cycle=Career&type=I&cid=N00027464&newMem=N&recs=20), Accessed 9/25/14)

**The Trial Lawyers Group, American Association For Justice, Contributed $200,ooo To Senate Majority PAC**

**In The First Quarter Of 2014, The Trial Lawyers’ American Association For Justice (AAJ) PAC Contributed $200,000 To Senate Majority PAC.** “Federal Election Commission records show that the trial lawyers’ American Association for Justice PAC in the last quarter gave $200,000 to Senate Majority PAC, which is run by former aides to Democratic U.S. Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid.”(Jennifer Jacobs, “GOP Questions Timing Of Lawyers’ Newest Braley Donation,” [*The Des Moines Register*](http://www.desmoinesregister.com/story/news/politics/iowa-politics/2014/04/21/iowa-republicans-question-timing-lawyers-newest-bruce-braley-donation-two-days-farmer-video-grassley/7953661/)*,* 4/21/14)

* **On April 7, 2014, Senate Majority PAC Began Running An Ad Defending Braley’s Support For Iowa Farmers. “**On April 4, Senate Majority PAC reserved air time in Iowa — the buy was about $210,000, a spokesman told reporters — and on April 7 began running a TV ad defending Braley regarding farmers.” (Jennifer Jacobs, “GOP Questions Timing Of Lawyers’ Newest Braley Donation,” [*The Des Moines Register*](http://www.desmoinesregister.com/story/news/politics/iowa-politics/2014/04/21/iowa-republicans-question-timing-lawyers-newest-bruce-braley-donation-two-days-farmer-video-grassley/7953661/)*,* 4/21/14)

**RADICAL LIBERAL**

***Braley Supported Nancy Pelosi As Speaker***

**According To The Sunlight Foundation’s OpenCongress, Braley Has Voted With Nancy Pelosi 78 Percent Of The Time In The 113th Congress.** “In the 113th congress, Bruce Braley and Nancy Pelosi have voted together on 590 of 755 roll call votes in which neither abstained, representing a voting similarity of 78%.” (Sunlight Foundation’s [OpenCongress](http://www.opencongress.org/people/compare?utf8=%E2%9C%93&representatives=true&person1=412208&person2=400314&commit=Compare), Accessed 2/28/14)

**Braley Has Voted For Nancy Pelosi For Speaker Four Times**

**In November 2006, Braley Said That He Was “So Honored” To Be Able To Vote For Nancy Pelosi As Speaker Of The House.** “‘I am so honored to be able to vote for the first woman to serve as Speaker of the House,’ Braley said, referring to current Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif.” (Mary Rae Bragg, “Braley, Democrats Share Smiles; The Reality Of The Election Night Rout Sets In,” *Telegraph Herald*, 11/9/06)

* **Braley Claimed That Democrats Must Be On Guard Of Republican Attempts To “Demonize” Pelosi.** “Democrats must be vigilant in responding to Republican attempts to ‘demonize’ Pelosi, Braley said, because she deserves support in her plan to work for passage of populist bills.” (Mary Rae Bragg, “Braley, Democrats Share Smiles; The Reality Of The Election Night Rout Sets In,” *Telegraph Herald*, 11/9/06)

**Braley’s First Vote As A Congressman Was To Appoint Nancy Pelosi As Speaker Of The House, Which He Called “Exciting And Historical.”** “That’s because his first vote was to appoint the first female Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., who later swore him into office. ‘It was very exciting and historical to be able to witness the first woman sworn in as speaker of the House. It was wonderful to see all the women on both sides of the aisle and know that the marble ceiling has been shattered,’ Braley said, referring to the proverbial glass ceiling that is referred to as the marble ceiling in Washington.” (Michelle Phillips, “Braley Sworn In As U.S. Rep; Congressman Is Honored To Tally His 1st First Vote For The 1st Female Speaker,” *Telegraph Herald*, 1/5/07)

**Braley Voted For Nancy Pelosi To Be Speaker Of The House Four Times.** (Election Of The Speaker, [Roll Call Vote #2](http://clerk.house.gov/evs/2007/roll002.xml): 233-202: Pelosi 233; Boehner 202, 1/4/07, Braley Voted Pelosi; Election Of The Speaker, [Roll Call Vote #2](http://clerk.house.gov/evs/2009/roll002.xml): 255-174: Pelosi 255; Boehner 174, 1/6/09, Braley Voted Pelosi; [Roll Call Vote #2](http://clerk.house.gov/evs/2011/roll002.xml): 241-173: Boehner 241; Pelosi 173, 1/5/11, Braley Voted Pelosi; Election Of Speaker, [Roll Call #2](http://clerk.house.gov/evs/2013/roll002.xml), Boehner 220, Pelosi 192, Other 21, 1/3/13, Braley Voted Pelosi)

**VIDEO: Braley Voting For Nancy Pelosi For Speaker In 2013.** ([U.S. House Of Representatives](http://www.c-spanvideo.org/event/212774#program310183-1), 1/3/13)

**VIDEO: Braley Voting For Nancy Pelosi For Speaker In 2011.** ([U.S. House Of Representatives](http://www.c-span.org/video/?297301-1/house-session), 1/5/11)

**VIDEO: Braley Voting For Nancy Pelosi For Speaker In 2009.** ([U.S. House Of Representatives](http://www.c-span.org/video/?283129-1/HouseSession3640" \t "_blank), 1/6/09)

**VIDEO: Braley Voting For Nancy Pelosi For Speaker In 2007.** ([U.S. House Of Representatives](http://www.c-span.org/video/?195700-1/HouseSession3253" \t "_blank), 1/4/07)

**VIDEO: In 2010, Braley Praised Nancy Pelosi, But Dodged Answering If He’d Vote For Pelosi As Speaker Of The House Again.** *THE ASSOCIATED* PRESS’sMIKE GLOVER: “Well, if you go back to it -- if it is a resolution on President Obama are you comfortable with that? His approval ratings are not all that bad. And the second part of the question was, will you vote for Nancy Pelosi if you regain control?” Braley: “Nancy Pelosi came to my district when it was devastated by the worst tornado in the United States and the worst flooding we have ever had in United States history and my opponent doesn't like to talk about this but she met people who lost their homes. She met people who lost their businesses because of flooding and she went back to Washington committed to help them out. That is the type of leadership she has been providing and they don’t want to talk about that because it's not consistent with the message that they're selling.” (IPTV’s “[Iowa Press](http://www.iptv.org/iowapress/episode.cfm/3805/video),” 10/8/10)

**In 2009, *The Hill* Reported That Braley Was A Member Of Pelosi’s “Go-To Gang”**

**In 2009, *The Hill* Reported That Braley Was Part Of Nancy Pelosi’s “Go-To Gang” To Help Whip Votes For ObamaCare.** “Pelosi’s ability to unite Democrats and get the tough bills passed derives from her powers of persuasion and careful vote counting. And part of counting votes is knowing whom you can count on in a pinch. Here are some of the key Democrats Pelosi is likely to turn to as the voting on healthcare reform comes down to the wire, along with two hard-to-get votes…Rep. Bruce Braley (Iowa): Braley replaced Republican Jim Nussle. His ambition has impressed Democratic leaders and earned him a slot on the Energy and Commerce Committee, where he voted for the bill in committee. After the bailout bill failed in 2008, Braley was one of the Democrats who switched to pass it the next month.” (Mike Soraghan, “Pelosi Has Go-To Gang On Big Votes,” [*The Hill*](http://thehill.com/homenews/house/65109-speaker-has-go-to-gang-on-tough-votes), 10/28/09)

***Braley Defended Nancy Pelosi***

**In 2009, Braley Said Pelosi Has Been “One Of The Most Powerful Speakers In Recent Memory”**

**In June 2009, Braley Claimed That Nancy Pelosi Has “Been An Enormously Effective Speaker And One Of The Most Powerful Speakers In Recent Memory.”** “Braley is vice chairman of the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee and Pelosi is due in Des Moines this Saturday to headline a fundraiser for the campaign committee. Braley lauds Pelosi’s leadership style. ‘She’s been an enormously effective speaker and one of the most powerful speakers in recent memory because she takes a very diverse Democratic Caucus, which distinguishes us from the Republican Conference, and tries to get us to consensus on a host of very difficult and challenging issues,’ Braley says.” (“Braley Defends Pelosi On Eve Of Her Iowa Visit,” [Radio Iowa](http://www.radioiowa.com/2009/06/03/braley-defends-pelosi-on-eve-of-her-iowa-visit/), 6/3/09)

**Braley Defended Pelosi, “She’s A Lightening Rod For Attacks From The Republican Party Because It’s Easier To Attack Her That It Is President Obama Whose Approval Ratings Are Very High.”** “House Speaker Nancy Pelosi has said it is she who was ‘misled’ about the interrogation techniques being used against terror suspects. Braley says Pelosi has become an easy target for criticism. ‘She’s required to take high-profile positions on a host of different issues,’ Braley says. ‘And she’s a lightening rod for attacks from the Republican Party because it’s easier to attack her that it is President Obama whose approval ratings are very high.’” (“Braley Defends Pelosi On Eve Of Her Iowa Visit,” [Radio Iowa](http://www.radioiowa.com/2009/06/03/braley-defends-pelosi-on-eve-of-her-iowa-visit/), 6/3/09)

***In 2006, Pelosi Said Braley Was Crucial For The Democrats To Take Back The House***

**In 2006, Pelosi Said Braley’s Election Was Crucial For The Democrats To Take Back The House**

**In 2006, Nancy Pelosi Praised Braley During His Congressional Campaign.** “While Iowa has five congressional districts, only two are in play in 2006. Pelosi was here to campaign for Democratic Congressman Leonard Boswell, who faces a spirited challenge from Republican Jeff Lamberti for central Iowa's 3rd District seat. She was also saying nice things about Bruce Braley, the party's candidate against Republican Mike Whalen in the open 1st District seat in northeast Iowa. Both Boswell and Braley must be considered favorites at this point.” (David Yepsen, “November Looks Promising For Pelosi, Other Dems,” *The Des Moines Register*, 4/10/06)

**In 2006, Pelosi Said That Unless Braley Wins In The Iowa 1st Congressional District, “We Can’t Take Back The House.”** “Democrats' ability to carry Iowa's 1st U.S. House District is a test of the party's larger challenge of winning back the majority in November, House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi said Tuesday in Des Moines. ‘Unless we can win a district like that, we can't take back the House,’ Pelosi said about the 1st District, where Republican Rep. Jim Nussle is stepping down to run for governor. Democrat Bruce Braley of Waterloo and Republican Mike Whalen of Bettendorf are running in the northeast Iowa district.” (Thomas Beaumont, “‘Pelosi: Iowa Race Key To Democrats' House Control Goal; The 1st District, Where Republican Rep. Jim Nussle Is Stepping Down, Is Seen As Likely To Switch Sides This Year,” *The Des Moines Register*, 8/9/06)

*Support for the Obama Administration.*

**Braley Said That Obama “Hasn’t Gotten Proper Credit” For The Good Job That He Has Done**

**VIDEO: In 2012, Braley Told *The Des Moines Register* That Obama “Has Done A Good Job” And “Hasn’t Gotten Proper Credit.”** THE DES MOINES REGISTER: “How’s he’s handled this economy—this situation we find ourselves in, four years later, at the end of his first term?” Braley: “I think that he has done a good job with a very bad situation with no blueprint to guide him. We were talking last night about the dynamics of what happened when President Obama took the oath of office. I was serving there, right before he was sworn in, when President Bush’s Treasury Secretary came to Congress with a three-page proposal to bail out the financial sector, and there were a lot of things that happened during that time that helped shape what happened going forward. I think that some of the things that have been undertaken by the President, he hasn’t gotten proper credit for.” (Interview With Editorial Board, [*The Des Moines Register*](http://archive.desmoinesregister.com/VideoNetwork/1860747875001/Rep-Bruce-Braley-meets-with-Register-editorial-board), 9/25/12)

**Two Weeks After The 2012 Benghazi Attack, Braley Said That Hillary Clinton Was A “Great Success” As Secretary Of State**

**VIDEO: In September 2012, Braley Said That Hillary Clinton Was A “Great Success” As Secretary Of State.** DES MOINES REGISTER: “So to that end, do you think President Obama has been effective that way with those relationships, that the approach has been well-received out there? What are we seeing out there right now? Braley: “I think Secretary Clinton has been a great success as the ambassador, as Secretary of State, traveling the globe, trying to deal with very difficult crises on a month-to-month basis.” (Editorial Board, [*The Des Moines Register*](http://archive.desmoinesregister.com/VideoNetwork/1860747875001/Rep-Bruce-Braley-meets-with-Register-editorial-board), 9/25/12)

*In 2009,**Braley Called For “The Strongest Public Option We Can Get” In ObamaCare*

**Braley Repeatedly Called For A Public Option In ObamaCare**

**VIDEO: Braley: “I Want The Strongest Public Option We Can Get.”** Braley: “Well no, I’ve introduced the first public health option bill in the House, along with Chris Murphy. I want the strongest public option we can get. But I also realize that until we see what comes out of the Senate, and what emerges from conference, you know, we want to see meaningful health care reform. And I’m not one of those people that thinks the only meaningful reform is the public option.” (The Young Turks, [Interview With Bruce Braley](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k9liGXiNeSk), 11/3/09)

**Braley Said A Public Option “Must Be Included In A Reform Plan” To Make It Effective.** “‘President Obama is right: it's time for action on meaningful healthcare reform. And meaningful healthcare reform means doing everything possible to reduce healthcare costs, make health insurance more affordable, and expand access to quality health insurance. I was glad to hear the President express support for the public health insurance option, but a public option must be included in a reform plan to make it as effective as possible at reducing skyrocketing costs. The bottom line is that we need healthcare reform, because we just can't afford the cost of inaction,’ said Rep. Bruce Braley.” (Rep. Bruce Braley, “Braley Statement on President Obama's Healthcare Address to a Joint Session of Congress,” [Press Release](http://braley.house.gov/press-release/braley-statement-president-obamas-healthcare-address-joint-session-congress), 9/10/09)

**Braley: “A Public Option Must Be Included In A Reform Plan To Make It As Effective As Possible At Reducing Skyrocketing Costs.”** Braley: “Meaningful health care reform means doing everything possible to reduce health care costs, make health insurance more affordable, and expand access to quality health insurance. I was glad to hear the president express support for the public health-insurance option, but a public option must be included in a reform plan to make it as effective as possible at reducing skyrocketing costs. We just can't afford the cost of inaction.” (Thomas Beaumont, “Health Care Speech: Reaction From Iowa's Delegation,” *The Des Moines Register*, 9/10/09)

**VIDEO: Braley: “I Think If You're Going To Have A Robust Public Option To Compete With The Private Marketplace And Give Consumers More Choice, It's Got To Be A Real Public Option.”** IPTV’S DEAN BORG: “I want to get a little more specific on what you've just said. You've called this the most important vote that you've cast in 2009 and also said it must have a public option -- a final legislation going to the White House must have a public option. Are you saying that you would vote against a comprehensive compromise if it didn't have the public option?” Braley: “Well, one of the challenges of answering that question, Dean, is there are so many different proposals out there that are some facet of a public option. The senate has provisions in their bill for co-ops, which they're calling a public option. We've tried co-ops in Iowa and they failed. And I think if you're going to have a robust public option to compete with the private marketplace and give consumers more choice, it's got to be a real public option. Then there are proposals to have that public option kick in at a certain point in time if the marketplace doesn't respond to the concerns we've been talking about. I believe the language in the house bill creates a reasonable alternative to give consumers more choices with a realistic public option that people can go into the national health insurance exchange and choose what's best for them.” (IPTV’s “[Iowa Press](http://www.iptv.org/iowapress/episode.cfm/3710),” 11/13/09)

**VIDEO: When Asked If ObamaCare Must Have A Public Option, Braley Responded, “I Think The Bill Has To Have A Meaningful Public Option.”** RADIO IOWA’S KAY HENDERSON: “You supported a so-called public option, which ended up being in the final house plan. Now the senate is debating this. Must the senate include a public option, or do you think this bill is dead?” Braley: “No, I think the bill has to have a meaningful public option, because Iowa is representative of many states where there is very little competition in the health insurance market. Eighty percent of the coverage offered in Iowa is offered by two companies. In many other states, it's that percentage or higher. The reason we need a public health insurance option is because the private marketplace has had the opportunity to address these problems and hasn't done a very good job of it. So what we're trying to do is create more transparency, require essential benefits in any type of policy, whether it's private or public, so consumers have more choice in the marketplace and can make the best decision for them and their families.” (IPTV’s “[Iowa Press](http://www.iptv.org/iowapress/episode.cfm/3710),” 11/13/09)

**Braley Voted For The Public Option**

**On November 7, 2009, Braley Voted For H.R. 3962, The Affordable HealthCare For America Act, Which Included A Public Option.**“Passage of the bill that would overhaul the nation's health insurance system and require most individuals to buy health insurance by 2013. It would create the Health Choices Administration tasked with establishing a federal health insurance exchange, including a government-run public health insurance option, to allow individuals without coverage to purchase insurance.” (H.R. 3962, [Roll Call #887](http://clerk.house.gov/evs/2009/roll887.xml" \t "_blank): Passed 220-215; R 1-176, D 219-39, 11/7/09, Braley Voted Yea)

**In February 2010, Braley Criticized Obama For Wavering On The Public Option**

**Braley Criticized Obama For Wavering On The Public Option.** “Obama also left wiggle room for people opposed to controversial issues, like the public option. ‘He made it clear that he thought it was an important priority in the beginning, but then as we moved into the nitty-gritty of rolling up our sleeves and trying to make sausage, he kept going back and forth,’ Braley said.” (Tina Hinz, “Braley Faults Obama On Health Care,” [*Waterloo-Cedar Falls Courier*](http://wcfcourier.com/news/local/braley-faults-obama-on-health-care/article_72106842-1bd6-11df-b1e8-001cc4c03286.html), 2/17/10)

*Braley supports greenhouse gas regulations even if it leads to higher energy costs*

**Braley Supports Reducing Greenhouse Emissions Such As Coal Use, “Even Though It Could Lead To Higher Prices”**

**In December 2008, Braley Said “It’s Time To Start Working” On Reducing Greenhouse Gas Emissions, Because “We Have Ignored This Problem For Far Too Long.”** “Congress cannot wait for the economy to recover to enact reductions in greenhouse gas emissions, according to an Iowa congressman positioned to play a significant role in addressing the issue. ‘We have ignored this problem for far too long,’ said Rep. Bruce Braley, a Democrat who was recently awarded a seat on the House Energy and Commerce Committee. ‘It's time to start working.’” (Philip Brasher, “Braley Says Congress Eager For Carbon Emission Controls,” *The Des Moines Register*, 12/23/08)

**Braley Claimed That No One Wants To Pay Higher Energy Costs, But Delaying Greenhouse Gas Reduction Legislation Will Make Costs “More Expensive For Future Generations To Deal With.”** “For Braley, the prospect of higher energy costs is no reason to put off reducing greenhouse gas emissions. ‘I don't think anyone wants to pay more for energy costs, and I think last summer's high gas prices drove that point home,’ he said. But delaying legislation will make the issue ‘more expensive for future generations to deal with,’ he said.” (Philip Brasher, “Braley Says Congress Eager For Carbon Emission Controls,” *The Des Moines Register*, 12/23/08)

* **Braley: “Even Though It Could Lead To Higher Prices In A Way We’re Talking About Investing In The Future Of This State, This Country And This Globe.”** (Philip Brasher, “Braley Says Congress Eager For Carbon Emission Controls,” *The Des Moines Register*, 12/23/08)

**In August 2013, Braley Voted To Allow The Obama Administration Impose A Carbon Tax Without Congressional Approval.** (H.R. 367, [Roll Call Vote #437](http://clerk.house.gov/evs/2013/roll437.xml): Passed 237-176; R 225-0, D 12-176, 8/2/13, Braley Voted Nay)

**Carbon Tax Impact**

**According To The Non-Partisan Congressional Budget Office, A Carbon Tax “Would Have A Negative Effect On The Economy.”** “By raising the cost of using fossil fuels, a carbon tax would tend to increase the cost of producing goods and services—especially things, such as electricity or transportation, that involve relatively large amounts of CO2 emissions. Those cost increases would provide an incentive for companies to manufacture their products in ways that resulted in fewer CO2emissions. Higher production costs would also lead to higher prices for emission-intensive goods and services, which would encourage households to use less of them and more of other goods and services. Without accounting for how the revenues from a carbon tax would be used, such a tax would have a negative effect on the economy.” (“Effects Of A Carbon Tax On The Economy And The Environment,” [Congressional Budget Office](http://www.cbo.gov/publication/44223" \t "_blank), 5/22/13)

* **A Carbon Tax Would Lead To Lower Wages, Less Labor, And Less Investment.** “The higher prices it caused would diminish the purchasing power of people’s earnings, effectively reducing their real (inflation-adjusted) wages. Lower real wages would have the net effect of reducing the amount that people worked, thus decreasing the overall supply of labor. Investment would also decline, further reducing the economy’s total output.” (“Effects Of A Carbon Tax On The Economy And The Environment,” [Congressional Budget Office](http://www.cbo.gov/publication/44223" \t "_blank), 5/22/13)
* **A Carbon Tax Would Disproportionately Impact Low-Income Households.** “The costs of a carbon tax would not be evenly distributed among U.S. households. For example, the additional costs from higher prices would consume a greater share of income for low-income households than for higher-income households, because low-income households generally spend a larger percentage of their income on emission-intensive goods. Similarly, workers and investors in emission-intensive industries, who would see the largest decrease in demand for their products, would be likely to bear relatively large burdens as the economy adjusted to the tax.” (“Effects Of A Carbon Tax On The Economy And The Environment,” [Congressional Budget Office](http://www.cbo.gov/publication/44223" \t "_blank), 5/22/13)

**In Committee, Braley Praised Cap-And-Trade’s Potential Regulations On Farmers**

**Braley Praised Cap-And-Trade’s Potential Regulations On Farmers, “I'm Hopeful We Will See The Benefits That Farmers Can Provide In Reducing Carbon Emissions And Include These Things, Such As Methane Digesters And No-Till Farming.”** Braley: “According to the legislation that we're considering, the EPA is to write regulations for certifying, maintaining and trading offsets. I'm hopeful we will see the benefits that farmers can provide in reducing carbon emissions and include these things, such as methane digesters and no-till farming. The energy revolution has begun. We need your help to make it a reality. And I yield the balance of my time.” (Rep. Bruce Braley, Committee On Energy And Commerce, Subcommittee On Energy And Environment, U.S. House, 4/21/09)

**In June 2009, Braley Voted For The Waxman-Markey Cap-And-Trade Bill**

**On A 33 To 25 Roll Call Vote, Braley Voted To Pass The American Clean Energy And Security Act In The House’s Energy And Commerce Committee.** (Markup On H.R. 2454, The American Clean Energy And Security Act Of 2009, Vote On H.R.2454: Passed 33-25, [Energy And Commerce Committee](http://democrats.energycommerce.house.gov/sites/default/files/documents/Transcript-HR-2454-FC-2009-5-21.pdf), U.S. House, 5/21/09)

**In June 2009, Braley Voted For The 2009 American Clean Energy And Security Act (Waxman-Markey Bill).**(H.R. 2454, Roll Call Vote #477: Passed 219-212; R 8-168, D 211-44, 6/26/09, Braley Voted Yea)

*Braley has opposed funding overseas operations at the expense of Iowans and domestic programs.*

**In May 2007, Braley Voted To Cut Off Funding For The Troops In Iraq**

**In 2007 Braley Voted Against The U.S. Troop Readiness, Veterans’ Care, Katrina Recovery, And Iraq Accountability Appropriations Act Of 2007** (H.R. 2206, [Roll Call #425](http://clerk.house.gov/evs/2007/roll425.xml): Passed 280-142, D 80-140, R 194-2, 5/24/07, Braley Voted Nay)

**Braley’s Vote Against Funding The War Was Even Further Left Than Tom Harkin, Who Voted For The Bill**

**Harkin Said He Voted For The U.S. Troop Readiness, Veterans’ Care, Katrina Recovery, And Iraq Accountability Appropriations Act Of 2007 Citing “Critical Domestic Needs”.** Following are portions of statements issued by tri-state lawmakers: From Sen. Tom Harkin, D-Iowa: ‘I voted for the Iraq supplemental funding bill tonight because this legislation addresses critical domestic needs. It increases the minimum wage to $7.25 an hour from $5.15 over the next two years ... provides emergency funding for the State Children's Health Insurance program ... provides nearly $1.8 billion for the Department of Veterans Affairs ... provides a much needed boost to agricultural conservation.’” (Mary Rae Bragg, “Politicians Weigh In On Bill Funding Iraq War,” *Dubuque Telegraph-Herald*, 5/17/07)

**In 2012 Braley Voted Against The 2102 National Defense Appropriations Act Which Protected The Iowa National Guard From Losing 700 Jobs And Gave Service Members A Pay Raise**

**In 2012, Braley Voted Against The Defense Appropriations Bill Because It Included Expenditures For The War In Afghanistan.** “Rep. Bruce Braley (IA-01) released the following statement today after voting against a $607 billion defense spending bill: **‘**While there are parts of the Defense Appropriations Bill that I strongly support - a pay raise for our troops and a provision blocking cuts to the Iowa Air National Guard's 132nd Fighter Wing in Des Moines, for example - I cannot vote to spend nearly $90 billion to continue combat operations in Afghanistan that began over a decade ago.’” (Rep. Bruce Braley, “Braley Statement On Defense Appropriations Bill,” [Press Release](http://braley.house.gov/press-release/braley-statement-defense-appropriations-bill), 7/19/12)

**The 2013 NDAA Provided $88.5 Billion For The War In Afghanistan.** “The bill from House Armed Services Committee Chairman Buck McKeon (R-Calif.) authorizes $554 billion in base Pentagon spending, an increase of $3.7 billion over the budget request from the president and $88.5 billion for overseas contingency operations (OCO).” (Jeremy Herb and Carlo Munoz, “House Panel Moves $643B Defense Bill, [*The Hill*](http://thehill.com/policy/defense/226651-house-committee-passes-643-billion-defense-bill), 5/10/12)

* **The 2013 NDAA Provided A 1.7% Pay Increase For Service Members.** “The authorization bill, which has been signed into law for 50 straight years, also includes a 1.7 percent increase in pay for troops.” (Jeremy Herb and Carlo Munoz, “House Panel Moves $643B Defense Bill, [*The Hill*](http://thehill.com/policy/defense/226651-house-committee-passes-643-billion-defense-bill), 5/10/12)
* **The 2013 NDAA Blocked Cuts To The Air National Guard.** “The bill restored several cuts that the Pentagon had sought, including for the Global Hawk Block 30 drone and reductions in the Air National Guard.” (Jeremy Herb and Carlo Munoz, “House Panel Moves $643B Defense Bill, [*The Hill*](http://thehill.com/policy/defense/226651-house-committee-passes-643-billion-defense-bill), 5/10/12)

**Without The Protective Provision Contained In The 2013 NDAA, The US Air Force Budget Put 700 Iowa Air National Guard Jobs At Risk.** “The National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) that passed the US House of Representatives today included provisions authored by Rep. Bruce Braley (IA-01) to reduce sexual assault and domestic violence in the military and provide additional protections for veterans against foreclosure. The legislation would also block a proposed Air Force recommendation to eliminate over 700 jobs at the Des Moines-based 132nd Iowa Air National Guard Fighter Wing.”(Rep. Bruce Braley, “Key Braley-Authored Provisions Included In House-Passed Defense Bill,” [Press Release](http://braley.house.gov/press-release/key-braley-authored-provisions-included-house-passed-defense-bill-0" \t "_blank), 5/18/12)

*Braley has a 100 percent rating from Planned Parenthood and has supported taxpayer-funded abortions and partial birth abortions.*

**Braley Has A 100 Percent Rating From Pro-Abortion Planned Parenthood**

**Braley Has A 100 Percent Rating From Pro-Abortion Planned Parenthood.** ([Planned Parenthood](http://www.plannedparenthoodaction.org/elections-politics/congressional-scorecard/#/iowa/42), Accessed 4/22/14)

**In 2006, Braley Said That Roe V. Wade Was Settled Law**

**In 2006, Braley Said That There Was No Need To Change Abortion Law Based On Roe V. Wade: “That Decision Has Made The Issue Of Abortion Rights Settled Law.”** “Braley contends there is no need to change current federal law based on Roe vs. Wade. ‘That decision has made the issue of abortion rights settled law,’ Braley said. ‘It was written by a conservative justice appointed by President Nixon who found that the government has no right to interfere in some difficult decisions to be made by women regarding their health.’ Braley also says he will oppose any legislation designed to interfere with a woman's right to seek medical care from her doctor.” (Tom Witosky, “Stem Cells, Abortion Split Whalen, Braley; Gay Marriage Also Is An Issue In The 1st District Congressional Race,” *The Des Moines Register*, 10/29/06)

**Taxpayer-Funded Abortion**

**In 2014, Braley Voted Against H.R. 7, A Bill That Prohibits Taxpayer Funded Abortions.** (H. R. 7, [Roll Call #30](http://clerk.house.gov/evs/2014/roll030.xml" \t "_blank): Passed 227-188: R 221-1, D 6-187, 1/28/14, Braley Voted Nay)

* **“The House Voted Tuesday To Permanently Ban Federal Spending On Abortion, And To Block The Flow Of Federal Subsidies To ObamaCare Insurance Plans That Cover Abortion.”** (Pete Kasperowicz, “House Votes To Limit Abortion Coverage Under Affordable Care Act,” *The Hill’s* [Floor Action](http://thehill.com/blogs/floor-action/votes/196708-house-votes-to-block-abortion-subsidies-under-obamacare" \t "_blank), 1/28/14)
* **The Bill Would Make The Ban On Federal Spending On Abortion Permanent.** “The legislation would make permanent the ban on federal spending on abortion, something that has been approved each year for decades through the Hyde Amendment, a policy rider attached to the Health and Human Services spending bill.” (Pete Kasperowicz, “House Votes To Limit Abortion Coverage Under Affordable Care Act,” *The Hill’s* [Floor Action](http://thehill.com/blogs/floor-action/votes/196708-house-votes-to-block-abortion-subsidies-under-obamacare" \t "_blank), 1/28/14)
* **The Bill Would Close A Loophole In ObamaCare That Allows The Government To Subsidize Health Insurance Plans That Cover Abortion.** “But the bill goes further, by closing what Republicans say is a loophole that allows the government to subsidize health insurance plans bought under ObamaCare that cover abortion. The GOP said those subsidies, which take the form of tax credits, are essentially a government payment toward abortion coverage, and that this subsidy goes against the intent of the Hyde Amendment.” (Pete Kasperowicz, “House Votes To Limit Abortion Coverage Under Affordable Care Act,” *The Hill’s* [Floor Action](http://thehill.com/blogs/floor-action/votes/196708-house-votes-to-block-abortion-subsidies-under-obamacare" \t "_blank), 1/28/14)

**Partial-Birth Abortion**

**In 2013, Braley Voted Against A Bill That Would Have Banned Abortions After 22 Weeks.** (H.R. 1797, [Roll Call #251](http://clerk.house.gov/evs/2013/roll251.xml): Passed 228-196: R 222-6, D 6-190, 6/18/13, Braley Voted Nay)

*Despite his criticisms of his Republican opponent, Braley has received support from national Democrats and members of the Obama Administration.*

**In August 2014, DNC Chairwoman Debbie Wasserman Schultz Stumped For Braley At The Iowa State Fair.** “Speaking at the Iowa State Fair on Saturday, Wasserman-Schultz sought to tout Rep. Bruce Braley (D-Iowa), whose support has falling dropping in the polls, and portray Ernst as extreme.” (Peter Sullivan, “DNC Chairwoman: Ernst An ‘Onion Of Crazy’” [*The Hill*](http://thehill.com/blogs/ballot-box/215344-dnc-chairwoman-calls-joni-ernst-onion-of-crazy-in-iowa), 8/17/14)

**In August 2014, Senate Agriculture Committee Chairwoman Debbie Stabenow Campaigned For Braley.** “Senate Ag Committee Chairwoman Debbie Stabenow, D-Michigan, who was campaigning for Braley, found that surprising. ‘Frankly, when I was preparing to come I was shocked to read Bruce Braley was running against someone who said she would vote against the Farm Bill and who is philosophically opposed to the Renewable Fuels Standard (RFS),’ Stabenow said at the co-op’s grain elevator in Springville, a Linn County community east of Cedar Rapids. ‘I thought that was a misprint.’” (James Q. Lynch, “Braley Brings In Ag Chair To Attack Ernst On Renewable Fuels,” [*The Cedar Rapids Gazette*](http://thegazette.com/subject/news/politics/braley-brings-in-ag-chair-to-attack-ernst-on-renewable-fuels-20140818#sEd7dQQGTTuj7C7U.99), 8/18/14)

**In August 2014 Braley Toured A Dairy Operation With Department Of Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack To Announce 2014 Farm Bill Grant Recipients.** “U.S. Agriculture Secretary, Tom Vilsack is returning to Iowa to announce federal grants designed to encourage development of new value-added farm products and to discuss other rural development funding programs. Vilsack, accompanied by U.S. Rep. Bruce Braley, will travel to a dairy operation in Ely in eastern Iowa and a food cooperative in Marshalltown. They’ll announce recipients of Value-Added Producer Grants for Iowa businesses. Money for the grants was increased in the 2014 Farm Bill.” (Tyler Mickelson, “Vilsack In Iowa To Announce New Product Grants,” [*The Associated Press*](http://kimt.com/2014/08/22/vilsack-in-iowa-to-announce-new-product-grants/), 8/22/14)

**First Lady Michelle Obama Is Planning To Campaign For Braley In October 2014.** “Michelle Obama will travel to Iowa next month for campaign events with U.S. Senate candidate Bruce Braley, The Des Moines Register has learned.” (Jason Noble, “Exclusive: Michelle Obama To Campaign With Bruce Braley In October,” [*The Des Moines Register*](http://www.desmoinesregister.com/story/news/politics/elections/2014/09/10/bruce-braley-michelle-obama-joni-ernst-us-senate-race/15408587/), 9/10/14)

**In August 28, 2014 Braley’s Campaign Announced A D.C. Lunch Fundraiser With Elizabeth Warren**

**In An Email Blast, Warren Encouraged Voters To Donate “$5 Or More” To Win Lunch With Braley And Warren In D.C. “In A Few Weeks.”** “I’d like to invite you to a lunch with Bruce and me in Washington, D.C. in a few weeks. All you have to do is pitch in $5 or more to help Bruce reach his $105,000 goal before the end of the month, and you’ll be automatically entered to win the contest.” (Elizabeth Warren, “Lunch With Bruce And Me,” Fundraising Email, 8/28/14)

**Just Two Days After Video Surfaced Of Braley Attacking Grassley For Not Having A Law Degree, Former Harvard Law Professor Sen. Elizabeth Warren (D-MA) Endorsed Braley’s Campaign**

**In March 2014, Sen. Elizabeth Warren (D-Mass.) Endorsed Braley’s Campaign For His “Populist” Track Record.** “‘The Progressive Change Campaign Committee and I are proud to support their campaigns,’ Warren said in a written statement emailed to supporters and reporters. ‘Bruce Braley led the Populist Caucus in the House of Representatives – and is focused on economic fairness, investing in education, and addressing our retirement crisis’” (Jennifer Jacobs, “Elizabeth Warren Endorses Bruce Braley For U.S. Senate,” [*The Des Moines Register*,](http://blogs.desmoinesregister.com/dmr/index.php/2014/03/27/elizabeth-warren-endorses-iowas-bruce-braley-for-u-s-senate/article?nclick_check=1) 3/27/14)

*Braley has failed to check regulations that hurt small businesses.*

**Braley Voted Against The REINS Act To Rein In The Obama Administration’s Wave Of Regulations**

**BraleyVoted Against H.R. 367, The Regulations From The Executive In Need Of Scrutiny (REINS) Act.** (H.R. 367, [Roll Call #445](http://clerk.house.gov/evs/2013/roll445.xml), Passed 232-183: R 226-0, D 6-183, Schneider Voted No, 8/2/13)

* **The REINS Act Would Require Congressional Approval Of Any Proposed Federal Regulation That Costs $100 Million Or More Annually.** “The centerpiece of the GOP push is the Regulations from the Executive in Need of Scrutiny (REINS) Act, which would require Congress to approve any federal rule that carries an annual price tag of $100 million or more. The legislation would create a new hurdle that regulations would have to clear before taking effect.” (Ben Goad, “GOP Launches Summer Assault On Regs,” *The Hill’s* [RegWatch](http://thehill.com/blogs/regwatch/legislation/314229-gop-launches-summer-assault-on-regulations" \t "_blank), 7/30/13)
* **According To The Congressional Research Service, Federal Agencies Issue 3,000 To 4,000 Finals Rules Each Year.** “However, according to the Congressional Research Service, federal agencies issue 3,000 to 4,000 final rules each year.” (“Cost Estimate For H.R. 2542 Regulatory Flexibility Improvements Act Of 2013,” [Congressional Budget Office,](http://www.cbo.gov/sites/default/files/cbofiles/attachments/hr2542.pdf)  9/5/13)

**CAMPAIGN FINANCE**

*Braley opposes Citizens United and claims that Democrats rely on “strong grassroots.” Senate Majority PAC has launched ads on Braley’s behalf in Iowa, while Baily had railed against outside spending.*

**Braley Said That The Citizens United Ruling Was “The Worst Thing To Happen To Democracy” In His Lifetime**

**VIDEO: Braley Called CitizensUnited “The Worst Thing To Happen To Democracy” In His Lifetime.** Braley: “I became the poster child of the bad aspects of Citizens United, which is the worst thing to happen to democracy, I think, in my lifetime.” (MSNBC’s“[The Rachel Maddow Show](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GfH6LH4REpk),” 4/14/14)

**VIDEO: Braley Said That “Democrats Have Always Relied On A Strong Grassroots,” Rather Than Wealthy Donors.** Braley: “And so the difference, this time, is we see the tsunami coming at us. And Democrats have always relied on a strong grassroots to try to mobilize and get people to see what’s at stake in these elections. Now, we can see that very powerful, moneyed interests are trying to buy the government they want and have no restrictions, literally, on what they can spend. That’s why Americans have to wake up and realize they need to be asking the tough questions when they see these ads on TV and they have innocuous names.” (MSNBC’s“[The Rachel Maddow Show](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GfH6LH4REpk),” 4/14/14)

**By April 2014, Half Of Braley’s Campaign Emails Since January Had Included Mentioned Of The Fundraisers**

**As Of April 21, 2014, Roughly Half Of Braley’s Campaign Communication Has Included The Koch Brothers.** “Over that same span, The Fix has received 92 total e-mails from the Braley campaign. That means roughly half of the communications coming from the Braley campaign have included some mention of the Koch brothers.” (Aaron Blake, “Bruce Braley Is Really Fixated On The Koch Brothers,” [*The Washington Post’s* The Fix](http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/the-fix/wp/2014/04/21/bruce-braley-is-really-fixated-on-the-koch-brothers/), 4/21/14)

**According To “The Fix,” Braley “Demonstrates Just How Reliant Democrats Have Become On The Koch Brothers As A Political Bogeyman.”** “But perhaps no candidate demonstrates just how reliant Democrats have become on the Koch brothers as a political bogeyman that will help them raise money and (ideally) scare people away from the Republican Party come November.” (Aaron Blake, “Bruce Braley Is Really Fixated On The Koch Brothers,” [*The Washington Post’s* The Fix](http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/the-fix/wp/2014/04/21/bruce-braley-is-really-fixated-on-the-koch-brothers/), 4/21/14)

**In April 2014, Senate Majority PAC Launched An Ad Supporting Braley On Agriculture**

**In April 2014, Senate Majority PAC Launched An Ad Featuring Two Farmers Touting Braley’s Support For Farmers.** “The Senate Majority PAC is out with a new ad seeking to shore up Rep. Bruce Braley's (D-Iowa) standing with farmers and blue-collar workers following fallout over his "farmer from Iowa" comments. In the ad, two men who appear to be farmers tout Braley's family farming roots and defend his character, implicitly refuting concern that his gaffe shows he's out of touch with Iowa farmers.” (Cameron Joseph, “Farmers Defend Braley In New Ad,” [*The Hill*](http://thehill.com/blogs/ballot-box/senate-races/203203-dem-super-pac-features-farmers-defending-braley-in-new-ad), 4/10/15)

* **Senate Majority PAC Spent Approximately $200,000 On The Ad Buy.** “The Senate Majority PAC, Democrats' main Senate super-PAC, has previously aired ads supporting Braley. But their turn to shore up his standing with farmers shows they're worried about the gaffe's fallout. The group is spending about $200,000 on the ad.” (Cameron Joseph, “Farmers Defend Braley In New Ad,” [*The Hill*](http://thehill.com/blogs/ballot-box/senate-races/203203-dem-super-pac-features-farmers-defending-braley-in-new-ad), 4/10/15)

**The Trial Lawyers Group, American Association For Justice, Contributed $200,ooo To Senate Majority PAC**

**In The First Quarter Of 2014, The Trial Lawyers’ American Association For Justice (AAJ) PAC Contributed $200,000 To Senate Majority PAC.** “Federal Election Commission records show that the trial lawyers’ American Association for Justice PAC in the last quarter gave $200,000 to Senate Majority PAC, which is run by former aides to Democratic U.S. Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid.”(Jennifer Jacobs, “GOP Questions Timing Of Lawyers’ Newest Braley Donation,” [*The Des Moines Register*](http://www.desmoinesregister.com/story/news/politics/iowa-politics/2014/04/21/iowa-republicans-question-timing-lawyers-newest-bruce-braley-donation-two-days-farmer-video-grassley/7953661/)*,* 4/21/14)

**The American Association For Justice Contributed $100,000 To Senate Majority PAC Two Days After Braley’s Gaffe Video Surfaced**

**On March 27 2014, Just Two Days After Braley’s Farmer Gaffe Video Surfaced, AAJ Contributed Their Second Donation Of $100,000.** “The lawyers gave their second $100,000 donation of the quarter on March 27. That was two days after a videotape surfaced on March 25 that showed Braley telling a room full of Texas lawyers at a campaign fundraising event that he’d be their “voice,” and that they should take care not to let the GOP win the majority in the U.S. Senate because “a farmer from Iowa without a law degree” — Republican U.S. Sen. Chuck Grassley — would become chairman of the Judiciary Committee.” (Jennifer Jacobs, “GOP Questions Timing Of Lawyers’ Newest Braley Donation,” [*The Des Moines Register*](http://www.desmoinesregister.com/story/news/politics/iowa-politics/2014/04/21/iowa-republicans-question-timing-lawyers-newest-bruce-braley-donation-two-days-farmer-video-grassley/7953661/)*,* 4/21/14)

**On April 7, 2014, Senate Majority PAC Began Running An Ad Defending Braley’s Support For Iowa Farmers. “**On April 4, Senate Majority PAC reserved air time in Iowa — the buy was about $210,000, a spokesman told reporters — and on April 7 began running a TV ad defending Braley regarding farmers.” (Jennifer Jacobs, “GOP Questions Timing Of Lawyers’ Newest Braley Donation,” [*The Des Moines Register*](http://www.desmoinesregister.com/story/news/politics/iowa-politics/2014/04/21/iowa-republicans-question-timing-lawyers-newest-bruce-braley-donation-two-days-farmer-video-grassley/7953661/)*,* 4/21/14)

**Braley’s Campaign Claimed That They Did Not Coordinate With The AAJ**

**Braley’s Campaign Says The Campaign Did Not Coordinate With AAJ.** “No coordination happened, said Braley campaign spokesman Jeff Giertz. ‘Absolutely not,’ he said. In a fiercely competitive political race, it’s not unusual to see these sorts of accusations fly. In this case, there’s no smoking gun pointing to coordination — the timing prompted questions.” (Jennifer Jacobs, “GOP Questions Timing Of Lawyers’ Newest Braley Donation,” [*The Des Moines Register*](http://www.desmoinesregister.com/story/news/politics/iowa-politics/2014/04/21/iowa-republicans-question-timing-lawyers-newest-bruce-braley-donation-two-days-farmer-video-grassley/7953661/)*,* 4/21/14)

**MINIMUM WAGE**

*The CBO reported that raising the minimum wage would reduce total employment by about 500,000 workers, but Braley denies that raising the minimum wage would put jobs at risk.*

**Braley Supports Raising The Minimum Wage To $10.10**

**Braley Supports Raising The Minimum Wage To $10.10 An Hour, Because “The Current Minimum Wage Has Lost 30 Percent Of Its Purchasing Power Since The Last Time We Raised It.”** “‘I support raising the minimum wage to $10.10 an hour and have it indexed to inflation,’ he said during a stop at Duncan’s Cafe downtown. ‘The current minimum wage has lost 30 percent of its purchasing power since the last time we raised it. At least 300,000 Iowans would see an increase in their income, and that is a substantial amount of new spending in their local community.’” (Tim Rohwer, “Braley Supports Raising The Minimum Wage”, [*The Daily Nonpareil*](http://www.nonpareilonline.com/news/local/braley-supports-raising-the-minimum-wage/article_6d2fc0f7-a0a3-5a15-9b28-1d627f6f58f2.html), 3/20/19)

* **Braley Denied That Raising The Minimum Wage Puts Jobs At Risk: “There Has Never Been Any Evidence To Show A Profound Loss Of Jobs Because Of A Minimum Wage Increase.”** “Braley disagreed with those who fear a minimum wage hike would force businesses to reduce workers to keep pace with this higher cost. ‘There has never been any evidence to show a profound loss of jobs because of a minimum wage increase.’” (Tim Rohwer, “Braley Supports Raising The Minimum Wage”, [*The Daily Nonpareil*](http://www.nonpareilonline.com/news/local/braley-supports-raising-the-minimum-wage/article_6d2fc0f7-a0a3-5a15-9b28-1d627f6f58f2.html), 3/20/19)

**The CBO Reported That Raising The Minimum Wage Would “Reduce Total Employment By About 500,000 Workers”**

**According To The Non-Partisan Congressional Budget Office, A Minimum Wage Increase To $10.10 Would “Reduce Total Employment By About 500,000 Workers.”** “Once fully implemented in the second half of 2016, the $10.10 option would reduce total employment by about 500,000 workers, or 0.3 percent, CBO projects. As with any such estimates, however, the actual losses could be smaller or larger; in CBO’s assessment, there is about a two-thirds chance that the effect would be in the range between a very slight reduction in employment and a reduction in employment of 1.0 million workers (see Table 1).” (“The Effects Of A Minimum-Wage Increase On Employment And Family Income,” [Congressional Budget Office](http://www.cbo.gov/sites/default/files/cbofiles/attachments/44995-MinimumWage.pdf" \t "_blank), 2/18/14)

**In May 2014, Braley Said He Would Continue To Champion Legislation To Raise The Minimum Wage.** “He said if a minimum-wage increase does not pass during this session of Congress, he will continue to champion the issue, a focus for Harkin this year. Braley said he will also continue to focus on economic issues in general.‘It’s the same type of economic issues I’ve been talking about for the last nine years: policies to expand the middle class,’ Braley said.” (Christinia Crippes, “Braley Campaigns As He Awaits U.S. Senate Opponent,” [*The Waterloo-Cedar Falls Courier*](http://wcfcourier.com/news/local/govt-and-politics/braley-campaigns-as-he-awaits-u-s-senate-opponent/article_f9b87aea-911c-50f7-9f1b-4515b36c69cc.html), 5/17/14)

**THE FARM BILL**

*Although Braley voted for the Farm Bill in 2014, the Farm Bill cut benefits to food stamps, conservation programs and disqualifies college students and undocumented immigrants.*

**Braley Voted For H.R. 2642, The Federal Agriculture Reform & Risk Management Act.**(H. R. 2642, [Roll Call #31](http://clerk.house.gov/evs/2014/roll031.xml): Passed 251-166: R 162-63, D 89-102, 1/29/14, Braley Voted Yea)

* **A Majority Of Democrats Opposed The $956 Billion Farm Bill.** “The House on Wednesday approved a mammoth, $956 billion farm bill in a bipartisan vote. Members approved the House-Senate agreement on farm policy in a 251-166 vote. A majority of Republicans backed the bill, with 63 GOP no votes. But a majority of Democrats opposed it, with 103 voting no.” (Pete Kasperowicz, “House Passes $956B Farm Bill,” *The Hill’s*[Floor Action](http://thehill.com/blogs/floor-action/house/196819-house-passes-956b-farm-bill), 1/29/14)
* **The Final Bill Cut $8 Billion From The Food Stamp Program, Down From The Original House Proposal That Called For A $39 Billion Cut.** “A majority of the spending in the bill is for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), informally called the food stamp program, and much of the Democratic opposition came from members who opposed the $8 billion cut to the program. The original House proposal would have cut $39 billion from food stamps, while the Senate-passed bill called for a $4 billion cut.” (Pete Kasperowicz, “House Passes $956B Farm Bill,” *The Hill’s*[Floor Action](http://thehill.com/blogs/floor-action/house/196819-house-passes-956b-farm-bill), 1/29/14)
* **“The Bill Would Cut Food Stamp Benefits For 850,000 Households In 17 States.”** “The bill would cut food stamp benefits for 850,000 households in 17 states by about $90 per month. It does so by tweaking the rules of a federal heating assistance program that some states had been using to boost food-stamp eligibility. In essence, some states had been assuming that people had higher heating bills than they actually did to let them qualify for food aid.” (Brad Plumer, “The $956 Billion Farm Bill, In One Graph,” *[The Washington Post](http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/wonkblog/wp/2014/01/28/the-950-billion-farm-bill-in-one-chart/" \t "_blank)*[’s WonkBlog](http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/wonkblog/wp/2014/01/28/the-950-billion-farm-bill-in-one-chart/" \t "_blank), 1/28/14)
* **The Farm Bill Also Cuts Conservation Programs By $4 Billion.** “First, some clarification: Under existing law, the United States was *already*on pace to spend $972.9 billion on these programs over the next decade. So the bill before Congress would technically cut spending, relative to that baseline, by about $16.5 billion. How does it do that? Well, food stamps are cut by $8 billion (relative to current law). Farm subsidy and commodity programs are cut by $14 billion. Conservation programs get cut by $4 billion. And crop insurance is increased by about $6 billion.” (Brad Plumer, “The $956 Billion Farm Bill, In One Graph,” *[The Washington Post](http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/wonkblog/wp/2014/01/28/the-950-billion-farm-bill-in-one-chart/" \t "_blank)*[’s WonkBlog](http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/wonkblog/wp/2014/01/28/the-950-billion-farm-bill-in-one-chart/" \t "_blank), 1/28/14)
* **The Bill Disqualifies College Students, Lottery Winners, And Undocumented Immigrants From Receiving Benefits.** “It clarifies the rules so that college students, lottery winners, and undocumented immigrants can't receive benefits.” (Brad Plumer, “The $956 Billion Farm Bill, In One Graph,” *[The Washington Post](http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/wonkblog/wp/2014/01/28/the-950-billion-farm-bill-in-one-chart/" \t "_blank)*[’s WonkBlog](http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/wonkblog/wp/2014/01/28/the-950-billion-farm-bill-in-one-chart/" \t "_blank), 1/28/14)
* **The Bill Prohibits The USDA From Spending Money On Promoting And Advertising Food Stamps.** “The Farm Bill also cuts SNAP funding by prohibiting the Agriculture Department from spending money on television, radio and billboard ads to promote the program and on programs designed to recruit new beneficiaries.” (Ed O’Keefe, “Hemp, Farm-Raised Fish, Food Labels And Food Stamps: What’s In The Farm Bill?” *[The Washington Post](http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/the-fix/wp/2014/01/27/hemp-farm-raised-fish-food-labels-and-food-stamps-whats-in-the-farm-bill/?hpid=z5" \t "_blank)*[’s The Fix](http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/the-fix/wp/2014/01/27/hemp-farm-raised-fish-food-labels-and-food-stamps-whats-in-the-farm-bill/?hpid=z5" \t "_blank), 1/27/14)
* **The Bill Authorizes Colleges To Grow Industrial Marijuana.** “For the first time, the farm bill will authorize colleges and universities to grow industrial hemp for research purposes in states that permit growth and cultivation of the plant. Currently 11 states — Colorado, Hawaii, Kentucky, Maine, Maryland, Montana, North Dakota, Oregon, Vermont, Washington and West Virginia — have such laws.” (Ed O’Keefe, “Hemp, Farm-Raised Fish, Food Labels And Food Stamps: What’s In The Farm Bill?” *[The Washington Post](http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/the-fix/wp/2014/01/27/hemp-farm-raised-fish-food-labels-and-food-stamps-whats-in-the-farm-bill/?hpid=z5" \t "_blank)*[’s The Fix](http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/the-fix/wp/2014/01/27/hemp-farm-raised-fish-food-labels-and-food-stamps-whats-in-the-farm-bill/?hpid=z5" \t "_blank), 1/27/14)

**SOCIAL SECURITY AND MEDICARE**

***Braley Supported Raising The Social Security Retirement Age***

**In 2006 Bruce Braley Said He Would Consider Raising The Social Security Retirement Age.** “However, there aren't many options he would rule out.  Braley called for ‘some modest adjustments.’ With life expectancy growing, raising the retirement age - similar to the adjustment made under the Reagan administration - might be necessary, Braley said.” (James Lynch, “Braley Calls For ‘Some Modest Adjustments’ To Social Security,” [*The Cedar Rapids Gazette*](http://thegazette.com/archives/), 10/20/06)

**Bruce Braley Opened The Door To Ending Guaranteed Social Security Benefits.** “So one of the things we have to look at is how we can make it, how we can strengthen and preserve it for the next generation.  I will not privatize Social Security the way that Ben Lange has proposed and I will also make sure that we will look at options like means testing if that is a way to put more money into the trust fund over the long-term.” (Bruce Braley, U.S. House Of Representatives Debate, [IPTV](http://www.iptv.org/iowapress/story.cfm/9987/video/ipd_20121101_104), Dubuque, Iowa, 11/1/12)

**On December 12, 2013, Braley Voted For The Bipartisan Budget Act Of 2013**

**Braley Voted For The Bipartisan Budget Act Of 2013.** (H.J. Res 59, [Roll Call #640](http://clerk.house.gov/evs/2013/roll640.xml), Passed 332-94: R 169-62, D 163-32, Braley Voted Aye, 12/12/13)

* **The Bipartisan Budget Act Of 2013 Includes $23 Billion In Net Deficit Reduction.** “The bipartisan package includes $63 billion of ‘sequester relief,’ $85 billion of total savings, and $23 billion in net deficit reduction. The agreement would set the discretionary spending level for fiscal year 2014 at $1.012 trillion, and $1.014 trillion in FY 2015.” (John Bresnahan and Jake Sherman, “Budget Agreement Reached,” [*Politico*](http://www.politico.com/story/2013/12/budget-deal-update-patty-murray-paul-ryan-100960.html), 12/10/13)
* **The Deal Also Averts A Shutdown And Replaces The Sequester.** “The framework amounts to a modest deal that averts another government shutdown, replaces the sequester and provides a level of certainty on spending that hasn’t been seen in Washington for several years.” (John Bresnahan and Jake Sherman, “Budget Agreement Reached,” [*Politico*](http://www.politico.com/story/2013/12/budget-deal-update-patty-murray-paul-ryan-100960.html), 12/10/13)

**The BBA Braley Voted For Cuts Military Pensions, Cuts Medicare And Increases Airline Taxes**

**The BBA Saves $6 Billion By Trimming Cost-Of-Living Increases By 1 Percentage Point For Working-Age Military Retirees Below The Age Of 62.** “Veterans’ groups and their advocates in the Senate were furious that the bill saves $6 billion by trimming cost-of-living increases by one percentage point for working-age military retirees, even though such retirees would receive a one-time increase in benefits at 62 so that payments during retirement would be the same as if there had been no cuts.” (Jonathan Weisman, “Senate Ends Budget Debate, Clearing Way For Passage,” [*The New York Times*](http://www.nytimes.com/2013/12/18/us/politics/budget-deal.html?_r=0&gwh=C094028825D9B10C81AA27F4E4E2CF02&gwt=pay)*,* 12/17/13)

* **In One Case, The BBA Could Result In A $72,000 Cut To Benefits For A Sergeant First Class Retiring At Age 42.** “Most controversial by far was a provision to curtail annual cost of living increases in benefits that go to military retirees under age 62, a savings of $6.3 billion over a decade for the government. By one estimate, the result would be a reduction of nearly $72,000 in benefits over a lifetime for a sergeant first class who retires at age 42 after 20 years of service. Veterans groups and their allies in Congress objected vociferously to what they said was a singling out of former members of the military, and key lawmakers in both parties said they would take a second look at the provision next year.” (David Espo, “Bipartisan Budget Agreement Clears Congress,” [*The Associated Press*](http://abcnews.go.com/m/story?id=21264170&sid=77&ts=true), 12/18/13)

**The “Bulk” Of Deficit Savings From The BBA Come From Cuts To Medicare Providers.** “It's hard to discern in the budget deal announced Tuesday night, but the bulk of its deficit savings come from fresh cuts to Medicare providers. Under the proposal announced by Rep. Paul Ryan (R-Wis.) and Sen. Patty Murray (D-Wash.), chairs of their chambers’ respective budget committees, lawmakers will replace about two-thirds of the hated automatic cuts under budget sequestration (totaling $63 billion) for this year and next, and cut the deficit by about $23 billion. That $23 billion – and then some – is explained in a short line in the summary of the deal: ‘The budget proposal saves $28 billion over ten years by requiring the President to sequester the same percentage of mandatory budgetary resources in 2022 and 2023 as will be sequestered in 2021 under current law,’ it says. ‘Mandatory budget resources’ refers mostly to Medicare providers.” (Michael McAuliff, “Budget Deal Whacks Medicare Providers,” [*The Huffington Post*,](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2013/12/10/budget-medicare-cuts_n_4422676.html) 12/10/13)

* **The Deal Extended The Cuts To Medicare Providers For Two More Years, Into 2022 And 2023.** “Under the Budget Control Act of 2011, which set up the sequester, so-called discretionary programs were subject to 5.1 percent across-the-board cuts when the Congress' ‘supercommittee’ failed to find targeted savings. Most ‘mandatory’ programs, such as Social Security and Medicaid, were exempt. But Medicare was not, and was subject to a 2 percent cut aimed at providers, worth more than $120 billion over the 10 years of the sequester. By extending the sequester for mandatory programs, Medicare providers – including hospitals – will have to take the hit for two more years.” (Michael McAuliff, “Budget Deal Whacks Medicare Providers,” [*The Huffington Post*](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2013/12/10/budget-medicare-cuts_n_4422676.html)*,* 12/10/13)

**Americans Will See Reductions To Medicare Advantage Benefits Due To ObamaCare**

**A Study By American Action Forum Found That ObamaCare Will Lead To Benefit Reductions of “About $1,5000 Per Beneficiary.” “**Obamacare's Medicare Advantage cuts will lead to benefit reductions of about $1,500 per beneficiary, according to a new analysis from a conservative think tank.” (Sam Baker, “Study: Cuts to Medicare Advantage Top $1,500 Per Senior,” [*National Journal*](http://www.nationaljournal.com/health-care/study-cuts-to-medicare-advantage-top-1-500-per-senior-20140417), 4/17/14)

* **Iowa Will See A Reduction Of $1,093.80 In Medicare Advantage Benefits.** (American Action Forum, “[Medicare Advantage Cuts in the Affordable Care Act: April 2014 Update](http://americanactionforum.org/research/medicare-advantage-cuts-in-the-affordable-care-act-april-2014-update),” 4/17/14)

**EDUCATION**

**Braley Voted Against Streamlining Government Programs For Job Training, Adult Education And Literacy Education**

**Braley Voted Against H.R. 803, The Supporting Knowledge And Investing In Lifelong Skills Act.** (H.R. 803, [Roll Call #75](http://clerk.house.gov/evs/2013/roll075.xml), Passed 215-202: R 213-14, D 2-188, Schneider Voted No, 3/15/13)

* **HR 803 Will Streamline And Consolidate 35 Federal Programs For Job Training, Adult Education And Literacy Education.** “Streamlined Employment Programs: Voting 215 for and 202 against, the House on March 15 sent the Senate a Republican bill (HR 803) to consolidate 35 federal programs for job training, adult education and literacy education into a single, broad-based workforce program to be administered by the states as they see fit rather than by Washington. The bill is a five-year renewal of the Workforce Investment Act (WIA) to be funded at $6 billion annually through block grants controlled by governors. A yes vote was to pass the bill.” (“Legislative Roll Call (March 11-March 15),” *Evansville Courier & Press*, 3/17/13)

**Braley Voted For The Student And Family Tax Simplification Act Which Does Not Include Pell Grant Recipients Or Non-Traditional Students**

**Braley Voted For H.R. 3393, The Student And Family Tax Simplification Act.** (H.R. 3393, [Roll Call 449](http://clerk.house.gov/evs/2014/roll449.xml), Passed 227-187: R 195-26, D 32-161, Braley Voted Aye, 7/24/14)

**The Student And Family Tax Simplification Act Would Consolidate Four Existing Tax Breaks For Tuition Related Expenses Into One Permanent Tax Credit Called The America Opportunity Tax Credit.** “The House on Thursday passed a bill to provide a tax credit for higher education expenses. Passed 227-187, the measure, H.R. 3393, would consolidate four existing tax breaks for tuition related expenses into one permanent credit. The new American Opportunity Tax Credit would be available for the first four years of higher education. It would provide a 100 percent credit for the first $2,000 of qualifying expenses and a 25 percent credit for subsequent expenses of $2,000. The maximum tax credit would be $2,500. Qualifying expenses would include tuition, fees and materials needed for coursework.” (Cristina Marcos, “House Passes Tax Credit For College Expenses,” *The Hill’s* [Floor Action](http://thehill.com/blogs/floor-action/house/213291-house-passes-tax-credit-for-college-expenses), 7/24/14)

* **The Bill Would Exclude Pell Grants From Income Qualifications And Make The Credit Available Only For Four Years.** “However, the measure would exclude Pell Grants from income qualifications. It would also require Pell Grant recipients to use money from the grant first toward college expenses before turning to the tax credit. Democrats objected to the provision only making the credit available for four years, arguing it would be unfair to nontraditional students who take more than four years to complete their degrees.” (Cristina Marcos, “House Passes Tax Credit For College Expenses,” *The Hill’s* [Floor Action](http://thehill.com/blogs/floor-action/house/213291-house-passes-tax-credit-for-college-expenses), 7/24/14)

**“The Obama Administration Said It Opposed The Measure, But Stopped Short Of A Veto Threat. It Said It Supports Make The Tax Credit Permanent, But Opposed The $800 Billion Price Tag Without An Offset.”** (Cristina Marcos, “House Passes Tax Credit For College Expenses,” *The*

## IMMIGRATION

*Braley says that he supports immigrants, but his immigration policy is incoherent. In 2006, Braley said he opposed amnesty, but believed that deportation was too expensive. Instead, Braley advocated for “meaningful punishment” to resolve immigration.*

**Braley Opposes Amnesty But He Believes It Is Too Expensive To Deport All Illegal Immigrants**

**In 2006, Braley Said He Was Opposed To Amnesty, But Claimed That It Was Too Expensive To Deport 12 Million Illegal Immigrants.** “Democratic congressional candidate Bruce Braley insisted Friday he is opposed to granting amnesty to illegal immigrants, but also acknowledged that American taxpayers probably can't afford to deport all of them. Instead, Braley, a Waterloo trial lawyer running against Bettendorf businessman Mike Whalen in Iowa's 1st District, said that any reform of U.S. immigration laws must impose fines and other ‘meaningful’ costs on illegal or undocumented immigrants as punishment for breaking U.S. laws. ‘It has to be meaningful punishment and that is something Congress has to decide because the cost of deporting 12 million illegal immigrants would be over $200 billion,’ Braley said. ‘With rising deficits, taxpayers can't afford that, so we have to come up with a more creative way of addressing the problem.’” (Tom Witosky, “Deporting Immigrants Is Too Costly, Braley Says,” *The Des Moines Register*, 9/2/06)

* **Braley: “It Has To Be Meaningful Punishment And That Is Something Congress Has To Decide Because The Cost Of Deporting 12 Million Illegal Immigrants Would Be Over $200 Billion.”** (Tom Witosky, “Deporting Immigrants Is Too Costly, Braley Says,” *The Des Moines Register*, 9/2/06)

**Braley Believes That Illegal Immigrants Should “Make Back Payments On Social Security And Other Taxes That They Failed To Pay While Working Illegally”**

**Braley Proposed That Illegal Workers Should Be Required To “Make Back Payments On Social Security And Other Taxes That They Failed To Pay While Working Illegally.”** “Braley said, for example, that all illegal workers would be required to make back payments on Social Security and other taxes that they failed to pay while working illegally.” (Tom Witosky, “Deporting Immigrants Is Too Costly, Braley Says,” *The Des Moines Register*, 9/2/06)

*Braley blamed “amnesty” for Congress’s failure to pass immigration reform, but he has said that he supports comprehensive immigration reform.*

**Braley Supports Passing Comprehensive Immigration Reform, But Claims The Legislation Has Been On Hold Because Of “Amnesty”**

**VIDEO: Braley Supports Passing Comprehensive Immigration Reform.** RADIO IOWA’S KAY HENDERSON: “The President also mentioned immigration reform and specifically the so-called dreamers, children who were brought here who are now adults and giving them privileges. What shape do you think immigration reform will take in Congress? And what will you hope to vote for?” Braley: “Well, I'm more optimistic than I have been in some time that Congress, republicans and democrats, will come together finally and pass comprehensive immigration reform. And I'll tell you why, Kay. The American Farm Bureau recently had a meeting and talked about their top legislative priorities for the coming Congress. It wasn't the farm bill. It was immigration reform. And when I talk to dairy farmers in northeast Iowa they are struggling to find people willing to work the demanding jobs and the hours that that involves. Seed corn companies in Iowa who used to depend on people like me to detassled corn as a teenager are having difficulty finding young people who are willing to do that type of demanding work. So I'm hopeful that we can get beyond the partisan rhetoric of immigration reform and get down to practical solutions which I think the American people and most Iowans want to see happen.” (IPTV’s “[Iowa Press](http://www.iptv.org/iowapress/episode.cfm/4017/video/ip_20130125_4017),” 1/24/13)

**VIDEO: In January 2013, Braley Said That The Larger Hang-Up On Passing Immigration Reform Was “One Word, Amnesty.”** RADIO IOWA’S KAY HENDERSON: “So does the fashion of this compromise appear to be giving the illegal immigrants who are currently here a pathway to citizenship, perhaps paying a fine, any back taxes?” Braley: “That's one of the biggest hang-ups we've had is this one word, amnesty. Well, amnesty was a word on a lot of people's minds at the end of the Vietnam War and it was, we're going to allow you to avoid criminal prosecution without much in the way of accountability. That is not what we're talking about with immigration reform because here in Iowa people are arrested, they are charged with crimes, they are allowed to plead guilty, pay a steep fine, go on probation and if they meet certain conditions their record can be expunged under something called a deferred judgment. Democrats, independents and republicans get that every week in this state. So if we start looking at our solutions to immigration reform more like they, say you have to admit you broke the law, you have to be held accountable for that in the forms of a stiff fine and probationary, if you do anything wrong you're out. But we have to be looking for creative solutions that bring people together to solve this issue whether than driving them apart.” (IPTV’s “[Iowa Press](http://www.iptv.org/iowapress/episode.cfm/4017/video/ip_20130125_4017),” 1/24/13)

*Braley’s immigration votes.*

**2008 Votes**

**Braley Voted For The William Wilberforce Trafficking Victims Protection Act Of 2008.** ([H.R. 7311](http://thomas.loc.gov/cgi-bin/bdquery/z?d110:HR07311:@@@R), Passed Without Objection, Braley Voted Yes, 12/10/08)

* **The Act Treated Unaccompanied Minor Children From Contiguous Countries Differently Than Those From Non-Contiguous Countries.** “Critics of the Obama Administration, however, assert that the recent surge in UAC fleeing their home countries is due to a perception of relaxed U.S. immigration policy toward children. They also cite a 2008 law that treats UAC from contiguous countries differently than UAC from non-contiguous countries (see ‘Customs and Border Protection’).” (Lisa Seghetti, Alison Siskin, and Ruth Ellen Wasem, “Unaccompanied Alien Children: An Overview,” [Congressional Research Service](file://localhost/Users/Quentin/Downloads/CRS-RPT_R43599_2014-07-28.pdf), 7/28/14)

**2009**

**Rep. Braley Voted Against A Motion To Recommit That, In Part, Would Have Put Additional Restrictions On The “Eligibility Of Legal And Illegal Immigrants” For The State Children’s Health Insurance Program.** “Deal, R-Ga., motion to recommit the bill to the Energy and Commerce Committee with instructions that it be reported back forthwith after replacing the text with language that would reauthorize the State Children's Health Insurance Program for seven years, require states to insure 90 percent of children under 200 percent of the poverty level before expanding the program to higher income levels, increase restrictions on the eligibility of legal and illegal immigrants for the program, and pay for the expansion by making changes to the corporate tax code.” (H.R. 2, [Roll Call #15](http://clerk.house.gov/evs/2009/roll015.xml): Motion Rejected 179-247: R 174-3, D 5-244, Braley Voted Nay, 1/14/09)

**2010 Votes**

**In December 2010, Braley Voted For/Against H.R. 5281, The DREAM Act.** (H.R. 5281, [Roll Call #625](http://clerk.house.gov/evs/2010/roll625.xml), Passed 216 – 198: R 8 – 160, D 208 – 38, Braley Voted Yes, 12/8/10)

* **The DREAM Act Provided A Path To Legal Residency For Hundreds Of Thousands Of Young Illegal Immigrants Brought Here By Their Parents.** “The House voted Wednesday to approve a controversial immigration measure that would provide a conditional path to legal residency for hundreds of thousands of young, undocumented immigrants first brought to the U.S. illegally by their parents. The bill -- the Development, Relief and Education for Alien Minors, or DREAM Act -- passed 216 to 198, including eight Republicans in favor of the bill and 38 Democrats opposed. The Senate, which postponed an anticipated vote on the act today, is expected to vote Thursday morning. Prospects of the bill's passage are slim.” (Devin Dwyer, “House Passes DREAM Act For Illegal Immigrants, Senate Poised To Vote,” [ABC News](http://abcnews.go.com/Politics/dream-act-immigration-reform-bill-house-senate-votes/story?id=12337341), 12/8/10)

**2011 Votes**

**In August 2011, Braley Voted Against The Budget Control Act, Which Featured Sequestration.** (S. 365, [Roll Call # 690](http://clerk.house.gov/evs/2011/roll690.xml), Passed 269 – 161: R 174 – 66, D 95 – 95, Braley Voted YNo, 8/1/11)

* **Then-Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano Warned That Sequestration Would Entail 5,000 Layoffs At Border Patrol.** “Automatic spending cuts due March 1 could pose a real setback for immigration reform by forcing the Border Patrol to reduce its workforce hours by the equivalent of 5,000 agents beginning in April — a nearly one-quarter reduction. That’s the upshot of testimony by Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano before the Senate Appropriations Committee on Thursday. The number 5,000 is the most detailed public assessment yet by her department of the fallout from the threatened sequester.” (David Rogers, “Janet Napolitano: Sequestration Could Mean Severe Cuts To Border Patrol,” [*Politico*](http://www.politico.com/story/2013/02/janet-napolitano-sequestration-could-mean-severe-cuts-to-border-patrol-87658.html), 2/4/13)

**In August 2011, Braley Voted For H.R. 1933, Which Amended “The Immigration And Nationality Act To Modify The Requirements For Admission Of Nonimmigrant Nurses In Health Professional Shortage Areas.”** (H.R. 1933, [Roll Call #685](http://clerk.house.gov/evs/2011/roll685.xml), Passed 407 – 17: R 220 – 16, D 187 – 1, Braley Voted Yes, 8/1/11)

* **H.R. 1933 Allowed Non-Resident Nurses To Work In The U.S. By Reauthorizing Their Work Visa Program.** “Lawmakers also passed H.R. 1933 in a 407-17 vote. This bill would extend a program allowing non-resident nurses to work in the U.S. in areas where there is a shortage of nursing professionals. A current work visa program for nurses has expired, and this bill would reauthorize it and allow people receiving these visas to stay in the U.S. for six years, not three as was allowed in the prior iteration of the program.” (Pete Kasperowicz, “House Approves CPSC Bill, Other Noncontroversial Bills,” [*The Hill*’s Floor Action](http://thehill.com/blogs/floor-action/house/174739-house-approves-cpsc-bill-other-noncontroversial-bills), 8/1/11)

**In November 2011, Braley Voted For H.R. 3012, The Fairness For High Skilled Immigrants Act.** (H.R. 3012, [Roll Call #860](http://clerk.house.gov/evs/2011/roll860.xml), Passed 389 – 15, R 210 – 13, D 179 – 2, Braley Voted Yes, 11/29/11)

* **H.R. 3012 Sought To Address The Mess Of The Green Card Program For High-Skilled Workers.** “Under the rules of their temporary work visas, Legaspi and Reddy are unable to change their employers or plan their lives beyond their work visa renewal about every two years. Despite their common frustration, these foreign-born professionals could find themselves on opposite sides of an increasingly nasty dispute among immigrants and their advocates over the proposed Fairness for High-Skilled Immigrants Act. The measure, which has stalled in the U.S. Senate, is aimed at addressing the badly clogged system that grants permanent residency permits, or green cards, to immigrants from around the world who work in the United States on temporary visas for high-skilled jobs.” (Pamela Constable, “Dispute Over Proposed Green Card Law Pits Brightest Immigrants Against Each Other,” [*The Washington Post*](http://www.washingtonpost.com/local/dispute-over-proposed-green-card-law-pits-brightest-immigrants-against-each-other/2012/01/03/gIQANdSKpP_story.html), 1/10/12)

**Rep. Braley Voted For An Amendment To Cut $336 For Border Fencing, Infrastructure And Technology.** “Cicilline, D-R.I., amendment that would increase funding for state and local programs at the Federal Emergency Management Agency by $337 million. It would be offset with a decrease of $336 million for border security fencing, infrastructure and technology and $1 million for the Office of the Secretary and Executive Management at the Department of Homeland Security.” (H.R. 2017, [Roll Call #385](http://clerk.house.gov/evs/2011/roll385.xml): Rejected 154-266: R 10-223, D 144-43, Braley Voted Yea, 6/1/11)

**2012 Votes**

**In May 2012, Braley Voted For The Border Tunnel Prevention Act Of 2012.** (H.R. 4119, [Roll Call #256](http://clerk.house.gov/evs/2012/roll256.xml), Passed 416 – 4: R 233 – 3, D 183 – 1, Braley Voted Yes, 5/16/12)

* **The Border Tunnel Prevention Act Made Involvement In A Cross-Border Tunnel Illegal, As Well As Authorized Law Enforcement To Seek Wiretapping Permits Of The Tunnels.** “Responding to an increase in smuggling tunnels along the California and Arizona borders, the House on Wednesday passed legislation aimed at helping law enforcement combat underground drug trafficking. In a rare bipartisan vote, the House overwhelmingly approved the Border Tunnel Prevention Act. President George W. Bush in 2006 signed legislation making it a federal crime to build or finance a cross-border tunnel to smuggle drugs, illegal immigrants and weapons. Sponsors of the new bill said the 2006 law needs to be strengthened because tunnels are still being discovered -- 40 in California and 74 in Arizona since 2006, according to federal officials. The legislation would make it a crime to attempt or conspire to build, finance or use an illegal cross-border tunnel. It would allow law enforcement to seek judicial approval to use wiretapping in investigations of the tunnels and permit seizure of cash or other property brought into the U.S. in an illegal tunnel. It also would allow prosecutors to pursue money laundering charges in tunnel cases.” (Richard Simon, “Drug Smuggling Border Tunnels Targeted In New Law,” [*Los Angeles Times*](http://articles.latimes.com/2012/may/16/nation/la-na-nn-border-tunnels-20120516), 5/16/12)

**In September 2012, Braley Voted For S. 3245.** (S. 3245, [Roll Call #580](http://clerk.house.gov/evs/2012/roll580.xml), Passed 412 – 3: R 228 – 3, D 184 – 0, Braley Voted Yes, 9/13/12)

* **S. 3245 Extended By 3 Years The Authorization Of The EB-5 Regional Center Program, The E-Verify Program, The Special Immigrant Nonminister Religious Worker Program, And The Conrad State 30 J-1 Visa Waiver Program.”** (S. 3245, [Roll Call #580](http://clerk.house.gov/evs/2012/roll580.xml), Passed 412 – 3: R 228 – 3, D 184 – 0, Braley Voted Yes, 9/13/12)

**In November 2012, Braley Voted Against H. Res. 821, The STEM Jobs Act of 2012.** (H.R. 6429, [Roll Call #613](http://clerk.house.gov/evs/2012/roll613.xml), Passed 245 - 139: R 218 – 0, D 27 – 134, Braley Voted No, 11/30/12)

* **The STEM Jobs Act Sought To Grant As Many As 55,000 Visas To Non-Citizens Who Complete Advanced Degrees In STEM Fields.** “The ‘STEM Jobs Act’ would grant as many as 55,000 visas to non-citizens who complete some advanced degrees at U.S. universities in science, technology, engineering, and math. The measure succeeded 245 to 139, with support from a majority of Republicans as well as 27 Democrats. When advanced in September, the measure was fast-tracked and so required a two-thirds ‘super majority’ for passage and fell short, 257 to 158. Republicans hailed it as a plus for employers and the economy.” (Gregory Wallace and Deirdre Walsh, “House Passes Immigration Bill To Keep Science And Technology Students In U.S.,” [CNN](http://politicalticker.blogs.cnn.com/2012/11/30/house-passes-immigration-bill-to-keep-science-and-technology-students-in-u-s/), 11/30/12)
* **Rep. Braley Voted Against Providing An Additional $10 Million For Border Security Fencing And Technology.** “Poe, R-Texas, amendment that would increase by $10 million the amount for border security fencing, infrastructure and technology expenses and reduce by the same amount funding for expenses for the Office of the Undersecretary for Management.” (H.R. 5855, [Roll Call #352](http://clerk.house.gov/evs/2012/roll363.xml): Adopted 302-113: R 221-14, D 81-99, Braley Voted Nay, 6/6/12)

**2014 Votes**

**Braley Voted For H.R. 5230, The House’s Supplemental Border Security Bill.**(H.R. 5230, [Roll Call #478](http://clerk.house.gov/evs/2014/roll478.xml" \t "_blank), Passed 223-189: R 222-4, D 1-185, Braley Voted Yes, 8/1/14)

* **The FY 2014 Border Supplemental Appropriations Provides A $694 Million Border Package, Including $35 Million To Deploy National Guard Troops To The Border.**“House Republicans earned a victory Friday night by approving a $694 million border package, one day after they were on the verge of leaving Washington empty-handed. The new measure added $35 million to deploy National Guard troops to the border, a key provision that won over some members.” (Cristina Marcos And Peter Schroeder, “House Approves Border Package,” *The Hill’s* [Floor Action](http://thehill.com/homenews/house/214139-house-approves-border-funding" \t "_blank), 8/1/14)
* **The Bill Also Provides $22 Million To Hire New Temporary Immigration Judges And $197 Million For The Department Of Health And Human Services To House Accompanied Minors.**“The border funding package includes $22 million to hire new temporary immigration judges and $197 million for the Department of Health and Human Services to house the unaccompanied minors.  Another provision in the bill would allow border patrol agents to access federal land within 100 miles of the Mexican border so that they can track down illegal immigrants.” (Cristina Marcos And Peter Schroeder, “House Approves Border Package,” *The Hill’s* [Floor Action](http://thehill.com/homenews/house/214139-house-approves-border-funding" \t "_blank), 8/1/14)
* **“…The Final Bill Also Includes Changes To A 2008 Human Trafficking Law So That All Unaccompanied Minors From Central America Undergo The Same Expedited Repatriation Process As Children From Mexico.”** (Cristina Marcos And Peter Schroeder, “House Approves Border Package,” *The Hill’s* [Floor Action](http://thehill.com/homenews/house/214139-house-approves-border-funding" \t "_blank), 8/1/14)

**Braley Voted Against H.R. 5272, Which Would Prevent The Obama Administration From Expanding The Deferred Action Child Arrivals (DACA) Program.**(H.R. 5272,[Roll Call #479](http://clerk.house.gov/evs/2014/roll479.xml" \t "_blank), Passed 216-192, R 212-11, D 4-181, Braley Voted No, 8/1/14)

**H.R. 5272 Would Prevent The Obama Administration From Expanding The Deferred Action Child Arrivals (DACA) Program.**“Following passage of the border supplemental package, the House approved a second measure in a 216-192 vote that would prevent the Obama administration from expanding the Deferred Action for Child Arrivals (DACA) program. The program provides two-year work permits for undocumented immigrants who arrived to the U.S. as children before 2007.” (Cristina Marcos And Peter Schroeder, “House Approves Border Package,” *The Hill’s* [Floor Action](http://thehill.com/homenews/house/214139-house-approves-border-funding" \t "_blank), 8/1/14)

**Rep. Braley Voted Against An Amendment That Would Provide $5 Million More To Investigate “The Actions Of The Homeland Security Department Regarding The Discretionary Release Of Illegal Immigrants Who Were Convicted Of Crimes.”** “King, R-Iowa, amendment that would reduce by $5 million the amount provided for the Justice Department general administration, salaries and expenses account and increase it by the same amount, with the intent of investigating the actions of the Homeland Security Department regarding the discretionary release of illegal immigrants who were convicted of crimes.” (H.R. 4660, [Roll Call #246](http://clerk.house.gov/evs/2014/roll246.xml): Adopted 218-193: R 213-9, D 5-184, Braley Voted Nay, 5/29/14)

*Braley supports giving driver’s licenses to illegal immigrants.*

**Braley Supports Giving Driver’s Licenses To Illegal Immigrants**

**VIDEO: In January 2013, Braley Said That The Iowa DOT Giving Driver’s Licenses To Illegal Immigrants “Was The Right Thing To Do.”** IPTV’S DEAN BORG: “Just something that happened this week, you call it a creative solution, the Iowa DOT reversed itself and is now going to give drivers licenses to those under the dream order of the President of the United States. Are you happy about that? Do you think it was the right thing to do? Was it an improper interpretation?” Braley: “I think it was the right thing to do, Dean, because from a law enforcement standpoint I think law enforcement officials want to have an ability to monitor people who are driving on the highways of this state and licensing them and keeping track of them is a better way of doing that than having people out on the road unlicensed, jeopardizing other people with no accountability.” (IPTV’s “[Iowa Press](http://www.iptv.org/iowapress/episode.cfm/4017/video/ip_20130125_4017),” 1/24/13)

**VETERANS**

*While on the Veterans Affairs Committee, Braley missed 78 percent of committee hearings between 2011 and 2012.*

**Bruce Braley Skipped 78 Percent Of His Veterans’ Affairs Committee Hearings.** “In fact, we found Braley missed 78 percent of the full hearings in 2011 and 2012.”  (Ed Tibbetts, “FACT CHECK: Iowa GOP claims Braley missed most of Veterans’ Affairs hearings, [*The Cedar Rapids Gazette*](http://iowagop.us8.list-manage.com/track/click?u=ee568466b3dcaaf15b6d6c44f&id=807369a5e4&e=887f079543)*,* 7/19/14)

**During That Time, Braley Missed Three Hearings On The VA Backlog**

**On September 20, 2012 Bruce Braley Skipped A Full Committee Hearing Regarding The VA’s Performance And Accountability.**  “The Committee met, pursuant to notice, at 10:19 a.m., in Room 334, Cannon House Office Building, Hon. Jeff Miller [Chairman of the Committee] presiding. Present: Representatives Miller, Roe, Stutzman, Flores, Johnson, Runyan, Benishek, Huelskamp, Turner, Brown, Michaud, McNerney, Walz, and Barrow.  The Chairman. The Committee will come to order.  Thank you, everybody, for being here for today's Full Committee hearing entitled Veterans Affairs in the 112th  Congress: Reviewing VA's Performance and Accountability.”  (Veterans Affairs In The 112th Congress: Reviewing VA's Performance And Accountability, [U.S. Government Printing Office](http://iowagop.us8.list-manage.com/track/click?u=ee568466b3dcaaf15b6d6c44f&id=5201880cb8&e=887f079543), Accessed 7/21/14)

**On October 12, 2012 Bruce Braley Skipped A Full Committee Hearing Titled “Failures At Miami Veterans Affairs Medical Center: Window To A National Problem.”**  The Committee met, pursuant to notice, at 10:05 a.m., in Room 334, Cannon House Office Building, Hon. Jeff Miller [Chairman of the Committee] presiding.  Present: Representatives Miller, Lamborn, Bilirakis, Roe, Stutzman, Flores, Johnson, Denham, Runyan, Benishek, Huelskamp, Amodei, Turner, McNerney, Donnelly, Walz, and Barrow.  (“Failures At Miami Veterans Affairs Medical Center: Window To A National Problem,” [U.S. Government Printing Office](http://iowagop.us8.list-manage.com/track/click?u=ee568466b3dcaaf15b6d6c44f&id=eb33d5fab0&e=887f079543), Accessed 7/20/14)

**On May 31, 2012 Bruce Braley Skipped His Veterans Affairs Committee Hearing Aimed At Helping Veterans Find A Job.**  “The Committee met, pursuant to notice, at 10:23 a.m., in Room 334, Cannon House Office Building, Hon. Jeff Miller [Chairman of the Committee] presiding.  Present: Representatives Miller, Stearns, Lamborn, Bilirakis, Stutzman, Runyan, Benishek, Brown, Michaud, McNerney, Walz, and Barrow.”  (Reviewing The Implementation Of Major Provisions Of The Vow To Hire Heroes Act Of 2011, [U.S Government Office Of Printing](http://iowagop.us8.list-manage2.com/track/click?u=ee568466b3dcaaf15b6d6c44f&id=32da1623e8&e=887f079543), Accessed 7/21/14)

**On The Day Of The September 20 Hearing, Braley Held Three Campaign Fundraisers**

**Bruce Braley Skipped A September 20, 2013 VA Hearing, But Attended Three Fundraisers.** “Over the past couple days, Republicans have sought to ramp up criticism over Braley’s hearing attendance, seizing on a Sept. 20, 2012, VA committee hearing he missed. It occurred the same day as three campaign fundraisers he attended. ‘He made time to attend all three of the fundraisers. But he couldn’t make time to show up at the hearing,’ Kochel said.” (Ed Tibbets, “GOP Hits Braley On VA Panel Attendance,” [*The Quad City Times*](http://iowagop.us8.list-manage1.com/track/click?u=ee568466b3dcaaf15b6d6c44f&id=ff56ea2f8a&e=79c4d1f743), 7/23/14)

**Braley’s Campaign Said That Braley Missed The Hearing To Attend An Oversight Committee Hearing, Not A Fundraiser But Braley Was Not At The Oversight Hearing**

**Bruce Braley’s Campaign Said They Skipped The Veterans’ Affairs Committee Hearing Because He Was At The Oversight And Government Reform Hearing.”** Braley campaign spokesman Jeff Giertz said fundraisers Braley scheduled on Sept. 20 didn’t conflict with the VA hearings. The congressman missed the 10 a.m. Veterans Affairs Committee meeting because he was at an Oversight and Government Reform Committee meeting that began at 9:36 a.m., Giertz said.”  (Jennifer Jacobs, “Braley Attended Three Fundraisers on Day of Missed Veterans Affairs Hearing”, [*The Des Moines Register*](http://iowagop.us8.list-manage1.com/track/click?u=ee568466b3dcaaf15b6d6c44f&id=4647d9bf29&e=79c4d1f743), 7/22/14)

**Braley Is Marked As Present, But Did Not Appear On Video Footage Of The Hearing Nor Does He Appear On The Hearing Transcript.** “Braley's aides said he skipped it to attend a 9:36 a.m. Oversight and Government Reform Committee meeting on the "Fast and Furious" gun trafficking scandal. The congressional record marked Braley ‘present,’ but reveals that he offered no testimony during the three-hour hearing, which ran until 12:45 p.m. Video caught no sight of Braley. His seat isn't always visible, but the multiple times it's within camera view during the window the Veterans Affairs committee was in session (10:19 a.m. to 11:54 a.m.), Braley wasn't seated, a Register review of C-SPAN 3 and committee footage found. Members of Congress can check in as "present" at a hearing, stay for a brief time – sometimes to ask a question – and then leave. Braley didn't ask a question, the transcript shows.” (Jennifer Jacobs, “Braley Under Fire For Missing VA Oversight Meetings,” [*The Des Moines Register*,](http://www.desmoinesregister.com/story/news/politics/elections/2014/07/22/bruce-braley-three-fundraisers-on-day-of-missed-hearing/13004385/) 7/23/14)

*Braley did not immediately call for Shinseki’s resignation and defended his service to The Des Moines Register editorial board.*

**Braley Did Not Immediately Call For Shineseki’s Resignation**

**On May 21, 2014 Braley Said He Would Not Call For Shinseki’s Resignation Until Further Investigation** “Iowa Congressman Bruce Braley, a Democrat from Waterloo, says he wants to learn more about the problems with Veterans Administration Hospitals before any action is taken against the leader of the VA. ‘We need to make sure that our first priority is finding out the facts that have given rise to the controversy in the Veterans Administration Facilities around the county. And then anyone involved in contributing to these deplorable conditions needs to be fired,’ Braley says.” (Dar Danielson, “Congressman Braley Wants An Investigation Before Action Against VA Leaders,” [Radio Iowa](http://www.radioiowa.com/2014/05/21/congressman-braley-wants-an-investigation-before-action-against-va-leaders/), 5/21/14)

**VIDEO: On May 23, 2014 In An Interview With *The Des Moines Register* Braley Repeatedly Stated That Congress Needed To Conduct Investigations Before Calling For Shinseki’s Resignation:**

* **VIDEO: Braley: “The Whole Point Of The Oversight Committee Is To Investigate And Get The Facts Right Before You Take Corrective Action To Address The Problem.”** (Rep. Bruce Braley, Interview With Editorial Board, [*The Des Moines Register*](http://www.desmoinesregister.com/videos/news/politics/elections/2014/05/23/9524497/), 5/23/14)
* **VIDEO: Braley Said Congress Has “A Responsibility” To Investigate And Move “Forward In The Right Direction, Not Just A Politically Expedient Direction.”** Braley: “I think we have a responsibility in our oversight capacity to treat this as a very serious problem, which it is, but to make sure we get the facts so we are moving forward in the right direction, not just a politically expedient direction.” (Rep. Bruce Braley, Interview With Editorial Board, [*The Des Moines Register*](http://www.desmoinesregister.com/videos/news/politics/elections/2014/05/23/9524497/), 5/23/14)

**VIDEO: Braley Said Shinseki Is A “Decorated Veteran” Who Has “Earned The Right For Congress To Investigate**

**On May 23, 2014 Braley Said Shinseki Has “Earned The Right” For Congress To Investigate Before Calling For Shinseki To Resign.** Braley: “But I've also seen Secretary Shinseki, who is a decorated veteran who has served his country with honors and distinction in the past, and I think he's earned the right for us to get the facts straight before we make decisions that are going to affect the future of the veterans administration.” (Rep. Bruce Braley, Interview With Editorial Board, [*The Des Moines Register*](http://www.desmoinesregister.com/videos/news/politics/elections/2014/05/23/9524497/), 5/23/14)

**Five Days Later, Braley Changed His Position And Joined In Calling For Shinseki’s Resignation**

**Following A Preliminary VA Inspector General Report, Braley Changed His Position And Joined In Calling For Shinseki’s Resignation.** “Braley agreed. ‘The preliminary report of the VA's Office of Inspector General has convinced me that it is time for Secretary Shinseki to resign," he wrote. "The safety and health of our veterans is the paramount responsibility of the VA — and the report's damning findings include 'systemic' problems with delayed medical care to veterans and manipulation of records to hide those delays. It is now clear that the only way to restore confidence in the VA's ability to identify and eliminate these problems throughout the entire system is with new leadership.’” (Tony Leys, “Loebsack, Braley Join Calls For Shinseki To Quit VA,” [*The Des Moines Register*](http://www.desmoinesregister.com/story/news/politics/2014/05/28/loebsack-joins-calls-for-shinseki-to-resign-as-va-chief/9688019/), 5/28/14)

**PROPOSED 2014 EPA REGULATIONS**

*Braley supports the 2014 proposed EPA rules.*

**Braley Supports The EPA’s Carbon-Cutting Proposed Regulation**

**In June 2014, Braley Said That Reducing Carbon Output “Will Remain My Number One Priority.”** “Washington, D.C.– Rep. Bruce Braley (IA-01) today released the following statement after the announcement by the Environmental Protection Agency of a preliminary plan to reduce carbon emissions. ‘In the year before these standards go into effect I’ll continue to advocate on behalf of Iowa to ensure that this proposal works for our consumers and businesses—but it’s clear that Iowa utilities are ahead of the curve on these standards, and that’s good news for Iowa’s consumers. The bottom line is that climate disruption is real, and that Iowa has been a global leader in tackling it head on with tremendous growth in areas like wind energy and renewable fuels. Reducing our carbon output is not only necessary for the health of the planet, it’s an opportunity to continue to improve the health of the Iowa economy—which is and will remain my number one priority.”The bottom line is that climate disruption is real, and that Iowa has been a global leader in tackling it head on with tremendous growth in areas like wind energy and renewable fuels. Reducing our carbon output is not only necessary for the health of the planet, it’s an opportunity to continue to improve the health of the Iowa economy—which is and will remain my number one priority.’” (Paul Deaton, “Bruce Braley: Climate Disruption Is Real,” [Blog For Iowa](http://www.blogforiowa.com/2014/06/05/bruce-braley-climate-disruption-is-real/), 6/5/14)

*While Braley touts his defense of RFS against the EPA’s proposed reductions, the delayed release of the final rule on EPA is expected to be a political victory for Braley.*

**Braley’s Political Kick-Back On RFS**

***E&E News* Headline: “EPA Extension Of RFS Deadline 'A Gift Package' For Braley In Iowa?”** (Amanda Peterka, “EPA Extension Of RFS Deadline 'A Gift Package' For Braley In Iowa?” [*E&E News*](http://www.eenews.net/stories/1060000917), 6/9/14)

* **Braley Has Vocally Opposed Cuts To RFS Included In The Proposed Rule.** “EPA's renewable fuel standard proposal for 2014 called for steep cutbacks in the amount of ethanol and advanced biofuels that refiners must blend into petroleum this year. Braley has been vocally opposed to the rule and has for months called on the Obama administration to raise the targets.” (Amanda Peterka, “EPA Extension Of RFS Deadline 'A Gift Package' For Braley In Iowa?” [*E&E News*](http://www.eenews.net/stories/1060000917), 6/9/14)
* **The Final Rule Is Expected To all For Higher Ethanol Targets And A Delayed Release Of The Rules Would Allow Braley To Claim Credit For Influencing The White House.** “EPA's final rule is widely expected to call for slightly higher ethanol and advanced biofuel targets, and delaying the rule's release to later in the summer could allow Braley to claim credit for influencing the White House to raise the targets just a couple of months before the November elections. ‘A release closer to or during the August congressional recess could bode well for Braley,’ said ClearView Energy Partners LLC in an analysis. ‘Braley could campaign at home arguing that his efforts resulted in increased targets for the largest biofuel-producing state.’” (Amanda Peterka, “EPA Extension Of RFS Deadline 'A Gift Package' For Braley In Iowa?” [*E&E News*](http://www.eenews.net/stories/1060000917), 6/9/14)

*Braley has voted against bills that would free states from EPA overregulation. In particular, on September 9, 2014 Braley voted against a bill that would limit the EPA’s proposed “Waters Of The U.S.” Rule, which threatens farming practices*

**Braley Has Voted Against Bills That Rein In EPA Power**

**Braley Voted Against H.R. 1582, The Energy Consumers Relief Act Of 2013, Which Would Require Energy Department Review Of EPA Regulations.** (H.R. 1582, [Roll Call Vote #432](http://clerk.house.gov/evs/2013/roll432.xml): Passed 232-181, 8/1/13, Braley Voted Nay)

**Braley Voted Against The Clean Water Cooperative Federalism Act Of 2011.** (H.R. 2018, [Roll Call Vote #573](http://clerk.house.gov/evs/2011/roll573.xml): Passed 239-184, 7/13/11, BraleyVoted Nay)

* **The Bill Would Prevent The EPA From Overruling State Decisions On Water Quality**. “The House also approved H.R. 2018, a bill that would prevent the EPA from overruling state decisions on water quality. Under the Clean Water Act, states have the responsibility for protecting waterways after the EPA signs off on their plans, but the EPA continues to reverse its decision by proposing burdensome and unscientific regulations that end up hurting the states economically.” (Quarter Horse News, “House Votes To Rein In EPA & Interior Department,” [Press Release](http://www.quarterhorsenews.com/news/other-news/10543-house-votes-to-rein-in-epa-a-interior-department), 7/15/11)

**Waters Of The U.S. Proposed Rule**

**Bruce Braley Voted Against The Waters Of The United States Regulatory Overreach Protection Act, Which Would Protect Farmers From New EPA Rules.** “The purpose of H.R. 5078 is to preserve existing rights and responsibilities under the Federal Water Pollution Control Act with respect to Waters of the United States by prohibiting the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) (collectively, the ‘Agencies’) from developing, finalizing, adopting, implementing, applying, administering, or enforcing a proposed rule or guidance the Agencies have developed regarding the scope of federal jurisdiction under the Federal Water Pollution Control Act.” (H.R. 5078, [Roll Call Vote #489](http://clerk.house.gov/evs/2014/roll489.xml), Passed 262-152: R 227-1; D 35-151,Braley Voted Nay, 9/9/14)

**Implementation Of The “Waters Of The U.S.” Rule Could Burden Normal Farming Practices And Hurt Iowa Farmers**

**The EPA’s “Waters Of The US” Rule Would Expand The Agency’s Jurisdiction Over Bodies Of Water That Are Not Directly Connected To Running Streams And Rivers.** “WOTUS, as the rule is being called in environmental and agricultural circles, would define the scope of waters protected under the 1972 Clean Water Act following two Supreme Court decisions that said the feds had to come up with a more scientific basis for deciding what water bodies come under their jurisdiction. The point of the rule is to make sure that the nation's drinking water is safe from discharges of pollution. The biggest point of contention is a provision that says EPA and the Army Corps would be allowed to decide on a case-by-case basis whether to regulate wetlands and other waters that are not directly connected to running streams and rivers but have ‘a significant nexus to a traditional navigable water, interstate water, or the territorial seas.’” (Jerry Hagstrom, “EPA Chief Won’t Ditch The Waters Rule, But She Is Digging For Answers,” [*National Journal*](http://www.nationaljournal.com/outside-influences/epa-chief-won-t-ditch-the-waters-rule-but-she-is-digging-for-answers-20140727), 7/27/14)

* **“That Possibly Could Include Control Of The Amount Of Nutrients A Farmer Is Allowed To Put In The Water On His Land, Attempts To Build A Fence, And The Time And Cost Of Applying For Federal Permits. To Farmers, It’s Nothing Short Of A Land Grab.”** (J.T. Rushing, “Some Farmers Believe EPA Overreaches In Water Act Clarification,” [*The Gazette*](http://thegazette.com/subject/news/business/agriculture/some-farmers-believe-epa-overreaches-in-water-act-clarification-20140721), 7/21/14)
* **Farmers And Ranchers Fear The Rule Will Place Undue Burdens On Them By Requiring Permits For Activities In Which They Have Long Been Engaged.** “Farm and ranch leaders who examined the rule immediately said they feared the provision could require them to obtain government permits for activities in which they have long engaged as a regular part of their businesses—and that because the determinations will be made on a case-by-case basis, the proposal creates a great deal of uncertainty about their future operations. EPA also issued an ‘interpretative rule’ that tried to define farm practices that would be exempt from regulation, but that only made farmers think about what practices were not included and worry they would come under regulation.” (Jerry Hagstrom, “EPA Chief Won’t Ditch The Waters Rule, But She Is Digging For Answers,” [*National Journal*](http://www.nationaljournal.com/outside-influences/epa-chief-won-t-ditch-the-waters-rule-but-she-is-digging-for-answers-20140727), 7/27/14)

**Despite His Vote Just Two Days Before, Braley Told Iowans He Opposed The EPA Rule And Would Protect Farmers**

**On September 11, 2014 Braley Told Iowans He Opposed The Rule And That He'd Protect Farmers From The EPA Rule He Voted To Advance.** “Iowans know that farmers rely on healthy soil and water to do their job, and they’re committed to taking care of the environment for their neighbors and future farmers. I hold strong opposition to the proposed rule, which overburdens farmers and makes it more difficult for them to engage in normal farm practices and conservation efforts.” (Rep. Bruce Braley, Congressional Email, 09/11/14)

**In A Letter To EPA Head Gina McCarthy, Braley Claimed He Had Actually Voted To Prohibit Any Rule That Threatens Agricultural Exemptions**

**On September 11, 2014, In A Letter To EPA Head Gina McCarthy, Braley States That He Voted To Prohibit Any Rule That Would Create More Wetland Regulations For Farmers.** “Second, this rule must strike the right federal-state balance. That is why earlier this week I voted to prohibit any rule that eliminated the exemptions currently provided to agriculture, and also voted to prohibit any rule that would regulate farm ponds, puddles, ditches, and other types of bodies of water. I feel strongly that these types of bodies of water should be exempted from any EPA rule on this topic.” (Rep. Bruce Braley, [Letter To EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy](http://braley.house.gov/sites/braley.house.gov/files/documents/Letter.Braley.EPA.09.11.2014.pdf), 9/11/14)

**Braley’s Campaign Is Backed By The League Of Conservation Voters, Which Supports The EPA’s Waterways Of The U.S. Rule**

**The League Of Conservation Voters Has Pledged Its Support For Expanding The EPA’s Authority On U.S. Waterways.** “LCV is committed to restoring the scope of the Clean Water Act to ensure that all of America’s waterways are protected. We have long supported legislation to accomplish this goal. Until such legislation passes, we are working with the Obama Administration to use the full scope of its existing regulatory authority to protect our nation’s water resources.” ([League Of Conservation Voters Website](http://www.lcv.org/issues/clean-water/), Accessed 9/19/14)

**In March 2014, The League Of Conservation Voters Endorsed Braley For Senator.** “The League of Conservation Voters Action Fund announced its endorsement of Rep. Bruce Braley (D-01). LCV Action Fund president Gene Karpinski: ‘Bruce Braley is committed to making America a leader in renewable energy jobs and technological innovations. He is an advocate for common sense solutions that protect our environment and put the people of Iowa first, and LCV Action Fund is proud to endorse him.’” (Julie Sobel, “LCV Endorses Braley,” *The Hotline*, 3/14/14)

**In Addition To Their Endorsement, The League Of Conservation Voters Has Run Ads Against Braley’s Opponent**

**On September 18, 2014, The League Of Conservation Voters Ran An Ad Attacking Republican Joni Ernst For Her Position On The EPA.** Also today, the league released a TV ad attacking Republican Joni Ernst, running against Democratic Rep. Bruce Braley for Iowa’s open Senate seat. The ad is part of a $1 million joint campaign to defeat Ernst that the league announced in June with the Sierra Club and the Environmental Defense Action Fund**.** (Eliza Newlin Carney, “Conservation Group To Spend Record $25 Million On Midterms,” [*Roll Call*](http://blogs.rollcall.com/beltway-insiders/conservation-group-lcv-to-spend-record-25-million/?dcz=), 9/18/14)

* **The Ad Is Part Of A Joint $1 Million Campaign By Environmental Groups.** “The ad is part of a $1 million joint campaign to defeat Ernst that the league announced in June with the Sierra Club and the Environmental Defense Action Fund**.** (Eliza Newlin Carney, “Conservation Group To Spend Record $25 Million On Midterms,” [*Roll Call*](http://blogs.rollcall.com/beltway-insiders/conservation-group-lcv-to-spend-record-25-million/?dcz=), 9/18/14)

**In June 2014 League Of Conservation Voters Ran An Ad Attacking Ernst.** “A new ad from a coalition of environmental groups tries to paint Iowa’s Republican Senate candidate Joni Ernst as too extreme. The groups, which include the League of Conservation Voters, the Sierra Club, and the Environmental Defense Action Fund, kicked off a nearly $1 million campaign with a 30 second TV spot on June 23, 2014.” (Molly O’Connor, “Does Joni Ernst Want To Abolish The Education Department And The EPA?” [*PolitiFac*](http://www.politifact.com/truth-o-meter/statements/2014/jun/27/league-conservation-voters/does-joni-ernst-want-abolish-education-department-/)*t*, 6/27/14)

***Grassley Criticized Braley For Failing To Take An “Easy” Yes Vote For Iowans***

**Radio Iowa Headline: “Grassley Blasts Braley For No Vote On EPA ‘Overreach” Bill”**

**In September 2014, Grassley Penned A Statement On The House’s Vote On The Waters Of The United States Regulatory Overreach Protection Act, Calling The Bill An “Easy” Yes Vote.** “Republican Senator Chuck Grassley has issued a carefully worded written statement that takes aim at a vote Democrat Bruce Braley took in the U.S. House last week. Republicans in the U.S. House voted to block the Environmental Protection Agency from imposing rules that farmers fear would give the agency authority to regulate water in ditches, farm ponds and tile lines. Grassley called that House bill ‘a thoughtful approach to the problem’ and an ‘easy’ yes vote for ‘anybody who has talked to Iowans in the last couple of months.’” (Kay Henderson, “Grassley Blasts Braley For No Vote On EPA ‘Overreach” Bill,” [Radio Iowa](http://www.radioiowa.com/2014/09/17/grassley-blasts-braley-for-no-vote-on-epa-overreach-bill/?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=twitter&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+RadioIowaNews+%28Radio+Iowa+News%29), 9/17/14)

**Grassley Didn’t Directly Mention Braley, But Stated “Too Bad The Entire Iowa Delegation Didn’t Get The Message” To Vote Yes.** “Braley, who is running for the U.S. Senate this year, voted no. Grassley didn’t mention Braley by name, but Grassley said in the statement that it’s ‘too bad the entire Iowa delegation didn’t get the message’ to vote yes.” (Kay Henderson, “Grassley Blasts Braley For No Vote On EPA ‘Overreach” Bill,” [Radio Iowa](http://www.radioiowa.com/2014/09/17/grassley-blasts-braley-for-no-vote-on-epa-overreach-bill/?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=twitter&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+RadioIowaNews+%28Radio+Iowa+News%29), 9/17/14)

**A Constituent In Braley’s District Said That Based On An Email He Got From Braley’s Congressional Office, He Expected Braley To Vote Yes.** “Bruce Neiman, a livestock farmer from Manchester who is president of the Delaware County Farm Bureau, says based on an email he got from Braley’s congressional office, he had expected Braley to vote yes. ‘It was just the opposite of the way he voted,’ Neiman says. ‘and so after the second time reading it, I said: ‘Well, I guess an actual political flip-flop right in front of me.’’” (Kay Henderson, “Grassley Blasts Braley For No Vote On EPA ‘Overreach” Bill,” [Radio Iowa](http://www.radioiowa.com/2014/09/17/grassley-blasts-braley-for-no-vote-on-epa-overreach-bill/?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=twitter&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+RadioIowaNews+%28Radio+Iowa+News%29), 9/17/14)

**ENERGY**

*Braley rails on fossil fuels and preaches support for renewable energy, but Braley has reported owning stock in oil and gas companies, including energy companies based overseas.*

**For 2012, Braley Reported Owning Stock In Oil And Gas Companies**

**In March 2011, Braley Criticized Oil Companies, “For Years, Oil Companies Have Raised Prices At The Pump, Made Americans Pay For Their Record Profits And Threatened American Security By Making Us More Dependent On Foreign Oil.”** “‘For years, oil companies have raised prices at the pump, made Americans pay for their record profits and threatened American security by making us more dependent on foreign oil,’ said Rep. Braley. ‘But instead of investing in renewable fuels, Republicans are funneling taxpayer dollars right back into the pockets of big oil. This bill is a chance for Congress to break that cycle and do something responsible for our nation, while also creating good jobs in Iowa.’” (Rep. Bruce Braley, “Braley Works To End Tax Breaks For Big Oil Companies,” [Press Release](http://braley.house.gov/press-release/braley-works-end-tax-breaks-big-oil-companies), 3/1/11)

**For 2012, Braley Reported Owning Stock, Worth Between $1,001 And $15,000, In Ashland Inc., A Chemical And Oil Company.** (Bruce Braley, [2012 Personal Financial Disclosure](http://pfds.opensecrets.org/N00027464_2012_A.pdf), Filed 8/13/13)

* **Braley Bought Ashland, Inc. Stock On July 6, 2012.** (Bruce Braley, [2012 Financial Disclosure](http://clerk.house.gov/public_disc/financial-pdfs/2013/8212365.pdf" \t "_blank), Filed 6/24/13)

**For 2012, Braley Reported Owning Stock, Worth Between $1,001 And $15,000, In Rosetta Resources Inc., An Oil Company.** (Bruce Braley, [2012 Personal Financial Disclosure](http://pfds.opensecrets.org/N00027464_2012_A.pdf), Filed 8/13/13)

* **NOTE: Braley Did Not Report A Transaction For Rosetta Resources Inc. Stock Reported On His 2012 Disclosure.**
* **Braley Bought Rosetta Resources Inc. Stock On May 30, 2013.** (Bruce Braley, [2013 Amended Financial Disclosure](http://clerk.house.gov/public_disc/financial-pdfs/2013/10003645.pdf), Filed 7/14/14)

**For 2012, Braley Reported Owning Stock, Worth Between $1,001 And $15,000, In CMS Energy Corp., A Natural Gas Company.** (Bruce Braley, [2012 Personal Financial Disclosure](http://pfds.opensecrets.org/N00027464_2012_A.pdf), Filed 8/13/13)

* **NOTE: Braley Did Not Report A Transaction For CMS Energy Corp Stock Reported On His 2012 Disclosure.**
* **Braley Bought CMS Energy Corp. Stock On February 6, 2013.** (Bruce Braley, [2013 Amended Financial Disclosure](http://clerk.house.gov/public_disc/financial-pdfs/2013/10003645.pdf), Filed 7/14/14)
* **Braley Bought CMS Energy Corp. Stock On May 3, 2013.** (Bruce Braley, [2013 Amended Financial Disclosure](http://clerk.house.gov/public_disc/financial-pdfs/2013/10003645.pdf), Filed 7/14/14)
* **Braley Bought CMS Energy Corp. Stock On May 30, 2013.** (Bruce Braley, [2013 Amended Financial Disclosure](http://clerk.house.gov/public_disc/financial-pdfs/2013/10003645.pdf), Filed 7/14/14)
* **For 2012, Braley Reported Owning Stock, Worth Between $1,001 And $15,000, In Energy XXI Bermuda LTD., An Oil Company.** (Bruce Braley, [2012 Personal Financial Disclosure](http://pfds.opensecrets.org/N00027464_2012_A.pdf), Filed 8/13/13)
* **NOTE: Braley Did Not Report A Transaction For Energy XXI Bermuda LTD. Stock Reported On His 2012 Disclosure.**

**For 2012, Braley Reported Owning Stock, Worth Between $1,001 And $15,000, In Schlumberger LTD., An Oil Company.** (Bruce Braley, [2012 Personal Financial Disclosure](http://pfds.opensecrets.org/N00027464_2012_A.pdf), Filed 8/13/13)

* **NOTE: Braley Did Not Report A Transaction For Schlumberger LTD. Stock Reported On His 2012 Disclosure.**
* **Braley Bought Schlumberger Stock On May 30, 2013.** (Bruce Braley, [2013 Amended Financial Disclosure](http://clerk.house.gov/public_disc/financial-pdfs/2013/10003645.pdf), Filed 7/14/14)
* **For 2012, Braley Reported Owning Stock, Worth Between $1,001 And $15,000, In Williams Cos., An Oil Company.** (Bruce Braley, [2012 Personal Financial Disclosure](http://pfds.opensecrets.org/N00027464_2012_A.pdf), Filed 8/13/13)
* **Braley Bought Williams Companies, Inc. Stock On September 6, 2012.** (Bruce Braley, [2012 Amended Financial Disclosure](http://clerk.house.gov/public_disc/financial-pdfs/2013/8212933.pdf" \t "_blank), Filed 8/13/13)

**For 2012, Braley Reported Owning Stock, Worth Between $1,001 And $15,000, In Grace W.R. & Co., An Oil And Chemical Company.** (Bruce Braley, [2012 Personal Financial Disclosure](http://pfds.opensecrets.org/N00027464_2012_A.pdf), Filed 8/13/13)

* **NOTE: Braley Did Not Report A Transaction For Grace W.R. & Co. Stock Reported On His 2012 Disclosure.**
* **Braley Bought Grace W.R. & Co., Stock On May 30, 2013.** (Bruce Braley, [2013 Amended Financial Disclosure](http://clerk.house.gov/public_disc/financial-pdfs/2013/10003645.pdf), Filed 7/14/14)
* **For 2012, Braley Reported Owning Stock, Worth Between $1,001 And $15,000, In Halliburton, An Oil Field Services Company.** (Bruce Braley, [2012 Personal Financial Disclosure](http://pfds.opensecrets.org/N00027464_2012_A.pdf), Filed 8/13/13)
* **NOTE: Braley Did Not Report A Transaction For Halliburton Stock Reported On His 2012 Disclosure.**
* **Braley Bought Halliburton Stock On May 30, 2013.** (Bruce Braley, [2013 Amended Financial Disclosure](http://clerk.house.gov/public_disc/financial-pdfs/2013/10003645.pdf), Filed 7/14/14)
* **Braley Bought Concho Resources Inc. Stock On June 5, 2012.** (Bruce Braley, [2012 Amended Financial Disclosure](http://clerk.house.gov/public_disc/financial-pdfs/2013/8212933.pdf" \t "_blank), Filed 8/13/13)
* **NOTE: Braley Did Not Report Concho Resources Inc. As An Asset In 2012 Or 2013.** (Bruce Braley, [2012 Personal Financial Disclosure](http://pfds.opensecrets.org/N00027464_2012_A.pdf), Filed 8/13/13; Bruce Braley, [2013 Personal Finance Disclosure](http://clerk.house.gov/public_disc/financial-pdfs/2013/10001106.pdf), Filed 7/14/14)

**On Braley’s House Website He Claims That He’s Cut Down On Expenses To Halliburton, Who Has “Wasted Billions Of Dollars.”** “First, I have called on President Obama to freeze all non-discretionary spending in all federal agencies. Second, I have gone after waste in Medicare, which could save as much as $700 billion in unnecessary health care costs, due to many unneeded services being provided. Third, I've worked to cut down on excessive defense contracts to firms like Blackwater and Halliburton, which have wasted billions of dollars. Finally, in February 2011, I supported nearly $450 billion in cuts to federal spending.” (Rep. Bruce Braley, “[Reducing The Deficit](http://braley.house.gov/issues/deficit-reduction),” Accessed 4/22/14)

**For 2012, Braley Reported Owning Stock In A Coal Mining Company**

**For 2012, Braley Reported Owning Stock, Worth Between $1,001 And $15,000, In Cliffs Natural Resources, A Coal Mining Company.** (Bruce Braley, [2012 Personal Financial Disclosure](http://pfds.opensecrets.org/N00027464_2012_A.pdf), Filed 8/13/13)

**For 2012, Braley Reported Owning Stock In A Renewable Energy Company**

**For 2012, Braley Reported Owning Stock, Worth Between $1,001 And $15,000, In NextEra Energy, A Renewable Energy Company.** (Bruce Braley, [2012 Personal Financial Disclosure](http://pfds.opensecrets.org/N00027464_2012_A.pdf), Filed 8/13/13)

*Although Braley claims to put everyday Iowans first and that he identifies with farmers, Braley has supported energy policies that increase costs for Iowans and for agriculture.*

**Braley Supports Reducing Greenhouse Emissions Such As Coal Use, “Even Though It Could Lead To Higher Prices”**

**In December 2008, Braley Said “It’s Time To Start Working” On Reducing Greenhouse Gas Emissions, Because “We Have Ignored This Problem For Far Too Long.”** “Congress cannot wait for the economy to recover to enact reductions in greenhouse gas emissions, according to an Iowa congressman positioned to play a significant role in addressing the issue. ‘We have ignored this problem for far too long,’ said Rep. Bruce Braley, a Democrat who was recently awarded a seat on the House Energy and Commerce Committee. ‘It's time to start working.’” (Philip Brasher, “Braley Says Congress Eager For Carbon Emission Controls,” *The Des Moines Register*, 12/23/08)

* **Braley: “Even Though It Could Lead To Higher Prices In A Way We’re Talking About Investing In The Future Of This State, This Country And This Globe.”** (Philip Brasher, “Braley Says Congress Eager For Carbon Emission Controls,” *The Des Moines Register*, 12/23/08)

**In 2008, Braley Refused To State Whether He Supports Exempting Agriculture From Emission Limits**

**In 2008, Braley Refused To State Whether He Support The Farm Lobby’s Efforts To Exempt Agriculture From Emission Limits.** “Braley also isn't ready to support the farm lobby's effort to get a blanket exemption for agriculture from emission limits. Agriculture accounts for 22 percent of Iowa's greenhouse emissions. Globally, agriculture produces more emissions worldwide than the transportation sector, according to the United Nations. Livestock manure and nitrogen fertilizer are two of the largest sources of agricultural emissions. Manure gives off methane, while fertilizer produces nitrous oxide. Both gases have more global-warming potential than carbon dioxide, scientists say.” (Philip Brasher, “Braley Says Congress Eager For Carbon Emission Controls,” *The Des Moines Register*, 12/23/08)

* **Braley Said That It Would Be “Irresponsible For Me” To Exempt Farms From Emissions Limits “Without Knowing More About What We Are Attempting To Exempt.”** “Citing the large size of modern livestock operations, Braley said it would be ‘irresponsible for me at this point in time’ to support protecting farms from emission reductions ‘without knowing more about what we are attempting to exempt.’” (Philip Brasher, “Braley Says Congress Eager For Carbon Emission Controls,” *The Des Moines Register*, 12/23/08)

**Braley Voted Against H.R. 4899, The Lowering Gasoline Prices To Fuel An America That Works Act.**(H.R. 4899, [Roll Call #368](http://clerk.house.gov/evs/2014/roll368.xml" \t "_blank), Passed 229-185: R 219-6, D 10-179, Braley Voted No, 6/26/14)

**The Lowering Gasoline Prices To Fuel An America That Works Act Would Expand Energy Production On Federal Lands.** “The House on Thursday passed a bill to expand energy production on federal lands. Passage of the measure on a 229-185 vote is part of the House GOP’s focus this week on boosting domestic energy production as a means of lowering gas prices.” (Cristina Marcos, “House Passes Bill To Increase Offshore Energy Projects,” *The Hill’s* [Floor Action](http://thehill.com/blogs/floor-action/house/210690-house-passes-bill-to-increase-offshore-energy-projects" \t "_blank)*,* 6/26/14)

* **The Bill Would Create An Undersecretary Of Energy, Land, And Minerals Within The Department Of Interior To Oversee Offshore And Onshore Energy Projects.** “Additionally, it would create an undersecretary of Energy, Land and Minerals within the Department of Interior to oversee offshore and onshore energy projects. The undersecretary would be appointed by the president and confirmed by the Senate.” (Cristina Marcos, “House Passes Bill To Increase Offshore Energy Projects,” *The Hill’s* [Floor Action](http://thehill.com/blogs/floor-action/house/210690-house-passes-bill-to-increase-offshore-energy-projects" \t "_blank)*,* 6/26/14)
* **“The Legislation Would Require The Secretary Of Interior To Conduct Oil And Natural Gas Lease Sales That Were Delayed By The Obama Administration, Including Off The Coasts Of Virginia And South Carolina.”** (Cristina Marcos, “House Passes Bill To Increase Offshore Energy Projects,”*The Hill’s* [Floor Action](http://thehill.com/blogs/floor-action/house/210690-house-passes-bill-to-increase-offshore-energy-projects" \t "_blank)*,* 6/26/14)
* **“Another Provision In The Bill Would Require The Obama Administration To Hold Annual Lease Sales In The Areas Of The Alaskan National Petroleum Reserve With The Most Oil And Natural Gas Resources.”**(Cristina Marcos, “House Passes Bill To Increase Offshore Energy Projects,” *The Hill’s* [Floor Action](http://thehill.com/blogs/floor-action/house/210690-house-passes-bill-to-increase-offshore-energy-projects" \t "_blank)*,* 6/26/14)

**In June 2009, Braley Voted For The Waxman-Markey Cap-And-Trade Bill**

**On A 33 To 25 Roll Call Vote, Braley Voted To Pass The American Clean Energy And Security Act In The House’s Energy And Commerce Committee.** (Markup On H.R. 2454, The American Clean Energy And Security Act Of 2009, Vote On H.R.2454: Passed 33-25, [Energy And Commerce Committee](http://democrats.energycommerce.house.gov/sites/default/files/documents/Transcript-HR-2454-FC-2009-5-21.pdf), U.S. House, 5/21/09)

**In June 2009, Braley Voted For The 2009 American Clean Energy And Security Act (Waxman-Markey Bill).**(H.R. 2454, Roll Call Vote #477: Passed 219-212; R 8-168, D 211-44, 6/26/09, Braley Voted Yea)

* **According To The CBO, The Waxman-Markey Bill Would Increase Taxes By $846 Billion.**(H.R. 2454: The American Clean Energy And Security Act Of 2009, [Congressional Budget Office](http://www.cbo.gov/sites/default/files/cbofiles/ftpdocs/102xx/doc10262/hr2454.pdf" \t "_blank), 6/5/09)

**Braley Supports Reducing Greenhouse Emissions “Even Though It Could Lead To Higher Prices”**

**In 2009, Braley Supported Incentives To “Move Away From High-Emitting Sources Like Coal.”** “‘By creating incentives to move away from high-emitting sources like coal, you create incentives for people to invest in renewable technologies,’ said Rep. Bruce Braley, D-Ia., who is a member of the House Energy and Commerce Committee, which approved the legislation in May.” (Phillip Brasher, “Climate Bill Unfair To Iowa, Utilities Say,” *The Des Moines Register*, 6/22/09)

**Braley Thinks Reducing Greenhouse Emissions Is Necessary Even If It Leads To Higher Energy Prices, “Even Though It Could Lead To Higher Prices In A Way We're Talking About Investing In The Future Of This State.”** “For Braley, the prospect of higher energy costs is no reason to put off reducing greenhouse gas emissions. ‘I don't think anyone wants to pay more for energy costs, and I think last summer's high gas prices drove that point home,’ he said. But delaying legislation will make the issue ‘more expensive for future generations to deal with,’ he said. ‘Even though it could lead to higher prices in a way we're talking about investing in the future of this state, this country and this globe.’” (Philip Brasher, “Braley Says Congress Eager For Carbon Emission Controls,” *The Des Moines Register*, 12/23/08)

*Over the course of his legislative career, Braley has voted against measures that would rein in the EPA’s regulatory power.*

**Braley Voted Against The Energy Tax Prevention Act Of 2011.** (H.R. 910, [Roll Call Vote #249](http://clerk.house.gov/evs/2011/roll249.xml): Passed 255-172, 4/7/11, Braley Voted Nay)

* **The Bill Would “Bar The Environmental Protection Agency From Acting To Limit Emissions Of Carbon Dioxide And Other Greenhouse Gases.”** “Nineteen Democrats joined in approving a bill that, were it to become law, would bar the Environmental Protection Agency from acting to limit emissions of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases that the agency has declared a threat to human health and the environment.” (John Broder, “House Votes To Bar E.P.A. From Regulating Industrial Emissions,” [*The New York Times*](http://www.nytimes.com/2011/04/08/us/politics/08emit.html), 4/7/11)

**Braley Voted Against The Stop The War On Coal Act.** (H.R. 3409, [Roll Call Vote #603](http://clerk.house.gov/evs/2012/roll603.xml): Passed 233-175, 9/21/12, Braley Voted Nay)

* **“The Proposals Would Bar The Environmental Protection Agency From Restricting Greenhouse Gases, Quash Stricter Fuel Efficiency Standards For Cars And Give States Control Over Disposal Of Harmful Coal Byproducts.”** (“House Votes To Rein In 'War On Coal' After Latest Round Of Industry Layoffs,” [*The Associated Press*](http://www.foxnews.com/politics/2012/09/21/house-gop-jabs-obama-on-energy-policy-with-vote-on-war-on-coal-bill/), 9/21/12)

**Braley Voted Against The EPA Regulatory Relief Act of 2011.** (H.R. 2250, [Roll Call Vote #791](http://clerk.house.gov/evs/2011/roll791.xml): Passed 275-142, 10/13/11, Braley Voted Nay)

* **The Bill Would Delay The EPA’s Boiler MACT Rule.** “During this critical time in our nation’s economic recovery, manufacturers simply cannot afford another costly and burdensome regulation that will put 230,000 jobs at risk, according to the Council of Industrial Boiler Owners. The Boiler MACT rule will cost manufacturers more than $14 billion in valuable capital that could be spent on investments to create jobs.” (National Association Of Manufacturers, “Manufacturers Welcome House Vote To Rein In The EPA,” [Press Release](http://www.nam.org/Communications/Articles/2011/10/Manufacturers-Welcome-House-Vote-to-Rein-in-the-EPA.aspx), 10/13/11)

**Braley Voted Against The Cement Sector Regulatory Relief Act of 2011.** (H.R. 2681, [Roll Call Vote #764](http://clerk.house.gov/evs/2011/roll764.xml): Passed 262-161, 10/6/11, Peters Voted Nay)

* **The Bill Would Have Rolled Back Multiple EPA Rules.** “Cement Sector Regulatory Relief Act of 2011 - Provides that the following rules shall have no force or effect and shall be treated as though they had never taken effect: (1) National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants from the Portland Cement Manufacturing Industry and Standards of Performance for Portland Cement Plants; and (2) the Standards of Performance for New Stationary Sources and Emission Guidelines for Existing Sources: Commercial and Industrial Solid Waste Incineration Units, and Identification of Non-Hazardous Secondary Materials That are Solid Waste, insofar as such rules are applicable to the Portland cement manufacturing industry and Portland cement plants.” (“Summary: H.R.2681 — 112th Congress (2011-2012),” [Congress.Gov](http://beta.congress.gov/bill/112th-congress/house-bill/2681?q=%7B%22search%22%3A%5B%22H.R.+2681%22%5D%7D), Accessed 2/27/14)

**Braley Voted Against H.R. 2728, Protecting States’ Rights To Promote American Energy Security Act.** (H.R. 2728, [Roll Call #604](http://clerk.house.gov/evs/2013/roll604.xml): Passed 235-187, 11/20/13, Peters Voted No)

* **H.R. 2728 “Would Block Pending Federal Rules On Fracking In States That Have Regulations In Place On Fracking.”** (Peter Kasperowicz, “House Advances Drilling, Fracking Bills,” *The Hill* Floor Action, 11/19/20)
* **The White House Issued A Veto Threat Against H.R. 2728 Because It Would Undermine The Bureau Of Land Management.**“The White House yesterday issued a veto threat against the bill, saying in a State of Administration Policy that the Bureau of Land Management works with states and tribes to beef up oversight and that Flores’s bill  ‘would undermine these efforts and instead require BLM to defer to existing State regulations on hydraulic fracturing on Federal lands, regardless of the quality or comprehensiveness of the State regulations — thereby preventing consistent environmental protections.’” (Alex Guillen, “House To Vote On Drilling, Fracking Bills-TransCanada Pushes Back KXL Launch Date-Former DOE Lab Chief Indicted,” *Politico*Morning Energy, 11/20/13)

**Braley Voted Against H.R. 3826, The Electricity Security And Affordability Act.**([H.R. 3826, Roll Call #106](http://clerk.house.gov/evs/2014/roll106.xml): Passed 229-183, 3/6/14 Braley Voted Nay)

* **The Bill Would Repeal Proposed EPA Limits On Emissions For Newly Constructed Fossil Fuel-Fired Electric Power Plans And Have The EPA Develop New Standards That Differentiate Between Coal-And Natural-Gas-Fired Plants.**“Proposed Environmental Protection Agency limits on greenhouse gas emissions for newly constructed fossil fuel-fired electric power plants would be repealed and the agency would have to develop new standards under H.R. 3826. The bill would require the EPA to differentiate between coal- and natural-gas-fired plants when it develops the replacement standards.” (Adam Schank, “BGOV Bill Summary: H.R. 3826, Block EPA Power Plant Rules,” Bloomberg Government, 3/6/14)
* **The EPA Would Need To Submit Reports To Congress On The Rules Potential Impact On The Economy.**“The EPA would be required to submit reports to Congress on the rule’s potential effects on economic growth, electricity rates, employment and the estimated reduction in emissions that would result from the rules.” (Adam Schank, “BGOV Bill Summary: H.R. 3826, Block EPA Power Plant Rules,” Bloomberg Government, 3/6/14)

**Braley Voted Against The RAPID Act Of 2013.** (H.R. 2641, [Roll Call Vote #113](http://clerk.house.gov/evs/2014/roll113.xml): Passed 229-179, 3/6/14, Braley Voted Nay)

* **The RAPID Act Of 2013 Would Set A Hard Deadline On Environmental Reviews To Prevent Construction Projects From Being Delayed For Years.** “The House on Thursday approved the latest Republican plan to jumpstart job creation — a bill that would set hard deadlines on environmental reviews that can delay construction projects for years. Members passed the Responsibly and Professionally Invigorating Development Act, or the RAPID Act, in a 229-179 vote.” (Pete Kasperowicz, “House Votes To Limit Environmental Reviews,” *The Hill’s* [Floor Action](http://thehill.com/blogs/e2-wire/e2-wire/200129-house-votes-to-limit-environmental-reviews), 3/6/14)

**Peters Voted Against H.R. 2401, The Transparency In Regulatory Analysis Of Impacts On The Nation (TRAIN), Which Would Change The Review Process Of The Federal Government’s Major Environmental Regulations.**(H.R. 2401, [Roll Call Vote #741](http://clerk.house.gov/evs/2011/roll741.xml): Passed 249 – 169, 9/23/11, Peters Voted Nay)

**OBAMACARE**

*Braley has touted his leadership on passing ObamaCare and continues to stand proudly by his vote.*

***In 2010, Braley Said That He Wouldn’t Vote To Repeal Anything In ObamaCare***

**VIDEO: Braley Said He Wouldn’t Vote To Repeal Anything In ObamaCare: “No, I Wouldn’t Vote To Repeal Anything That Is In The Bill …”** IPTV’S DEAN BORG: “Mr. Braley, let's go back to the federal healthcare. You ticked off a number of things you said are good for Iowans. Are there some things that you wish weren't in that bill that you would vote to repeal?” BRALEY: “No, I wouldn't vote to repeal anything that is in the bill because the bill together is what is necessary to reduce the number of people without healthcare coverage because, Dean, the healthcare system we had was broken and republicans did nothing to fix it. They had control of Congress and George Bush in the White House when Ben Lange was working for a republican congressman. 47 million Americans without health insurance is a national tragedy and republicans did nothing to solve it. Premiums skyrocketed getting out of control. Is the bill we passed perfect? No. But it is a good start and making sure that people have access to quality, affordable healthcare.” (IPTV’s “[Iowa Press](http://www.iptv.org/iowapress/episode.cfm/3805/video),” 10/8/10)

**Braley: “I’ve Had A Front-Row Seat” On ObamaCare.** “As a member of the House Subcommittee on Health, I've had a front-row seat as health-care legislation has moved through the House this year. After reading the bill, listening to my constituents and debating the bill's provisions in Congress, I'm convinced this legislation is good for Iowa.” (Rep. Bruce Braley, “Braley Statement On House Passage Of Health Care Reform,” [Press Release](http://braley.house.gov/press-release/braley-statement-house-passage-health-care-reform), 11/8/09)

**In 2009, *The Hill* Reported That Braley Was A Member Of Pelosi’s “Go-To Gang” To Whip Votes For ObamaCare**

**In 2009, *The Hill* Reported That Braley Was Part Of Then-Speaker Pelosi’s “Go-To Gang” To Help Whip Votes For ObamaCare.** “Pelosi’s ability to unite Democrats and get the tough bills passed derives from her powers of persuasion and careful vote counting. And part of counting votes is knowing whom you can count on in a pinch. Here are some of the key Democrats Pelosi is likely to turn to as the voting on healthcare reform comes down to the wire, along with two hard-to-get votes…Rep. Bruce Braley (Iowa): Braley replaced Republican Jim Nussle. His ambition has impressed Democratic leaders and earned him a slot on the Energy and Commerce Committee, where he voted for the bill in committee. After the bailout bill failed in 2008, Braley was one of the Democrats who switched to pass it the next month.” (Mike Soraghan, “Pelosi Has Go-To Gang On Big Votes,” [*The Hill*](http://thehill.com/homenews/house/65109-speaker-has-go-to-gang-on-tough-votes), 10/28/09)

**Braley Stands By His Vote On Obamacare**

**In May 2014, Braley Said He Would Continue To Stand Behind ObamaCare.** “Beyond that, Braley said, he would also work to protect the social safety net. That means defending the Affordable Care Act. Braley has already become a target for his support of the legislation, also called Obamacare.” (Christinia Crippes, “Braley Campaigns As He Awaits U.S. Senate Opponent,” [*The Waterloo-Cedar Falls Courier*](http://wcfcourier.com/news/local/govt-and-politics/braley-campaigns-as-he-awaits-u-s-senate-opponent/article_f9b87aea-911c-50f7-9f1b-4515b36c69cc.html), 5/17/14)

**In May 2014, Braley Said America “Can’t Afford” To Go Back To Before ObamaCare.** “‘We can’t afford to go back to where we were before,’ Braley said, pointing to pre-ACA problems like 50 million uninsured, insurance companies denying people coverage for pre-existing conditions or canceling policies without notice. ‘We have changed all those things.’” (Christinia Crippes, “Braley Campaigns As He Awaits U.S. Senate Opponent,” [*The Waterloo-Cedar Falls Courier*](http://wcfcourier.com/news/local/govt-and-politics/braley-campaigns-as-he-awaits-u-s-senate-opponent/article_f9b87aea-911c-50f7-9f1b-4515b36c69cc.html), 5/17/14)

**Braley Said That ObamaCare Was One Of The Most Important Legislative Achievements Of The Century**

**Braley Thinks ObamaCare Was One Of The Most Important Pieces Of Legislation Of The Century, “I Think When People Start To Fully Understand The Impact It’s Going To Have On Their Lives In A Positive Way, They Are Going To Realize What An Important Achievement It Was.”** “On health care reform, Braley thinks people will look back and see it as one of the most important legislative achievements of the century. ‘I think when people start to fully understand the impact it's going to have on their lives in a positive way, they are going to realize what an important achievement it was,’ he said.” (Tina Hinz, “Braley Announces Re-Election Bid,” *Waterloo-Cedar Falls Courier*, 3/31/10)

**Braley Claimed That He Read Every Page Of ObamaCare**

**VIDEO: Braley Said On ObamaCare, “You’re Damn Right I Read The Bill” And “I Had Every Page Highlighted.”** BENLANGE: “I know you mentioned read the bill. You're telling us that you read 2700 pages”Braley: “You're damn right I read the bill. I took it to every -- I took it to every one of my 17 town hall meetings, Ben and if you had come to them you would have seen that.” BEN LANGE: “2700 pages in the middle of the night” Braley: “I had every page highlighted, I had my handwritten notes in the margin and I had tabs there. I take my job very seriously, Ben.” (Rep. Bruce Braley, U.S. House Of Representatives Debate On IPTV’s “[Iowa Press](http://www.iptv.org/iowapress/story.cfm/9987/video/ipd_20121101_104),” Dubuque, Iowa, 11/1/12)

*Despite his promises to the contrary, ObamaCare has not performed well in Iowa*

**In April 2014, An Analysis Of ObamaCare Numbers Showed That Iowa Failed To Meet The Target Set By HHS.** “Alaska, Iowa and Arkansas performed better but still did not reach their goals. Democrats are hoping to keep seats in all three states.” (Elise Viebeck, “ObamaCare Spike Plays Into Senate Races,” [*The Hill*](http://thehill.com/policy/healthcare/205012-senate-races-play-into-obamacare-surge#ixzz30ZXCy8EP), 5/2/14)

**Iowa’s Mercy Medical Center Announced 29 Layoffs Due To ObamaCare.**REPORTER: “Mercy Medical Center announced today it has laid off 29 people. All of those workers are in Des Moines. Mercy is also modifying manager pay, reducing pay for directorships, reducing hours for certain jobs, and not filling some empty positions. These cuts are a part of the medical center’s effort to cut $38 million. Mercy says the reason for the cuts is due to low payments from Medicare and Medicaid along with changes that are associated with the Affordable Care Act.” ([WHO-IA](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XuoT7INHlaY" \t "_blank), 5/16/14)

**Following An Initial Drop, ER Visits In Iowa Are Back On The Rise.** “The University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics reported a 20-percent drop in emergency patient visits for the first three months of the year, but Doctor Hans House says that was likely a seasonal change. ‘Since spring we’ve seen an increase in the number of patients at our own institution, at the University of Iowa, and speaking with my colleagues in Cedar Rapids and the Quad Cities, they say they’re seeing a significant increase in their patients. So, that trend seems to have reversed,’ House says.” (Dar Danielson, “Hospitals Keeping Track Of Emergency Room Visits After Affordable Care Act,” [Radio Iowa](http://www.radioiowa.com/2014/05/22/hospitals-keeping-track-of-emergency-room-visits-after-affordable-care-act/), 5/22/14)

**In May 2014, *The Des Moines Register* Reported Three-Fourths Of Uninsured Iowans Remain Uninsured. “**The law's programs have provided new health insurance coverage to tens of thousands of Iowans, and improved coverage to 50,000 others who had skimpy benefits. State leaders say they have enrolled more people into public insurance plans than they expected to by now. But a new report estimates about three-quarters of Iowans who lacked health insurance last year remain uninsured.” (Tony Leys, “Report: 230,000 Iowans Still Lack Health Care Coverage,” [*The Des Moines Register*](http://www.desmoinesregister.com/story/news/health/2014/05/19/iowans-lack-health-insurance/9270235/), 5/19/14)

**John Deere Corp. Reported A $150 Million Increase In Expenses Due To ObamaCare**

**In March 2010, John Deere Announced $150 Million In Increased Expenses Due To ObamaCare.** “Besides being America's two biggest makers of heavy equipment, they have both announced huge increases in expenses due to ObamaCare. Wednesday, Caterpillar made official its estimate of $100 million in increased costs for 2011, though they will take the charge this year. Yesterday, John Deere said it will face an additional $150 million in increased costs for 2010 in order to comply with the Democrats' assault on America's health care and health insurance systems, eliminating about 11% of the company's profits for the year.” (Ross Kaminsky, “Deere In Obama’s Headlights,” [*The American Spectator*](http://spectator.org/articles/39855/deere-obamas-headlights), 3/26/10)

**John Deere Operates Five Factories In Iowa And Is Among The Largest Employers**

**John Deere Operates Five Factories In Iowa** “In addition to Waterloo, the company has plants in Dubuque, Ankeny, Ottumwa and Davenport.” (Matthew Patane, “John Deere Plans To Expand At Waterloo Location,” [*The Des Moines Register*](http://www.desmoinesregister.com/story/money/business/2014/05/15/john-deere-waterloo-iowa-economic-development-authority-may-2014/9120747/), 5/15/14)

* **John Deere Invests $90 Million In It’s Waterloo Factory Alone.** “Iowa provided John Deere with $14.8 million in tax credits in 2010 for a $90 million investment at that location.” (Matthew Patane, “John Deere Plans To Expand At Waterloo Location,” [*The Des Moines Register*](http://www.desmoinesregister.com/story/money/business/2014/05/15/john-deere-waterloo-iowa-economic-development-authority-may-2014/9120747/), 5/15/14)

**John Deere Employs At Least 13,920 Iowans Statewide.** ([MBA Today Website](http://www.mba-today.com/index.php), Accessed 7/21/14)

*Despite Braley’s claims that ObamaCare doesn’t affect small businesses, insurance premiums for small businesses nearly doubled since 2009.*

**In May 2014 Braley Said Businesses “Complain To Me About The Increase In Their Health Insurance” But That ObamaCare Doesn’t Affect Them**

**VIDEO: Braley: “I Still Have Businesses Who Complain To Me About The Increase In Their Health Insurance.”** “I still have businesses who complain to me about the increase in their health insurance premiums because of ObamaCare. And I ask them—the person who raises a question—how many employees do you have? And they always tell me less than 50 and I always remind them that if you have fewer than 50 employees you are not covered by the Affordable Care Act.” (Editorial Board, [*The Des Moines Register*](http://www.desmoinesregister.com/videos/news/politics/elections/2014/05/23/9524497/), 5/23/14)

**Braley Said “I Always Remind Them” That ObamaCare Doesn’t Apply To Small Buisnesses.** “I still have businesses who complain to me about the increase in their health insurance premiums because of ObamaCare. And I ask them—the person who raises a question—how many employees do you have? And they always tell me less than 50 and I always remind them that if you have fewer than 50 employees you are not covered by the Affordable Care Act.” (Editorial Board, [*The Des Moines Register*](http://www.desmoinesregister.com/videos/news/politics/elections/2014/05/23/9524497/), 5/23/14)

**However, Insurance Premiums For Small Businesses Have Nearly Doubled Since 2009**

**The National Small Business Association Surveyed Nearly 800 Small Business Owners To Assess The Impact Of ObamaCare On Their Operations.** “As the Affordable Care Act (ACA) continues to make headlines for problems with the online enrollment and ongoing delays to various aspects of the law, small businesses continue to struggle with the cost and complexity of providing health care benefits for their employees. To offer insight into how America’s small businesses are dealing with rising health care costs, what kind of benefits they offer and how ACA is impacting their business, NSBA recently surveyed more than 780 small-business owners and is pleased to provide the results of that survey this document, the NSBA 2014 Small Business Health Care Survey.” (“2014 Small Business Health Care Survey,” [National Small Business Association](http://www.nsba.biz/wp-content/uploads/2014/02/Health-Care-Survey-2014.pdf" \t "_blank), 2/6/14)

**The Average Monthly Per-Employee Cost Of Health Insurance Premiums For Small Firms Has Nearly Doubled From $590 In 2009 To $1,121 Today.** “Today the average monthly per-employee cost of health insurance premiums for a small firm is $1,121. When asked in 2009 for the estimated monthly cost of their health benefits package, per employee, small firms reported $590 per month. Beyond health insurance premiums, employers report additional health-care related spending to the tune of $458 per month, per employee.” (“2014 Small Business Health Care Survey,” [National Small Business Association](http://www.nsba.biz/wp-content/uploads/2014/02/Health-Care-Survey-2014.pdf" \t "_blank), 2/6/14)

* **“A Whopping 91 Percent Reported Increases In Their Health Plan At Their Most Recent Renewal, And The Majority Expect To Continue Seeing Cost Increases In The Coming Year.”** “Furthermore, a whopping 91 percent reported increases in their health plan at their most recent renewal, and the majority expect to continue seeing cost increases in the coming year.” (“2014 Small Business Health Care Survey,” [National Small Business Association](http://www.nsba.biz/wp-content/uploads/2014/02/Health-Care-Survey-2014.pdf" \t "_blank), 2/6/14)

**Nearly Every Small Business Surveyed - 96 Percent - Reported An Increase In Health Insurance Costs Over The Past Five Years.** “Furthermore, a whopping 91 percent reported increases in their health plan at their most recent renewal while 96 percent reported increased health insurance costs over the past five years. The majority expect to continue seeing cost increases in the coming year.” (“2014 Small Business Health Care Survey,” [National Small Business Association](http://www.nsba.biz/wp-content/uploads/2014/02/Health-Care-Survey-2014.pdf" \t "_blank), 2/6/14)

**The Increase In Insurance Premiums Has Negatively Affected Small Business Hiring**

**To Deal With The Increased Cost Of Healthcare, 34 Percent Of Small Businesses Reported Holding Off On Hiring A New Employee, While 12 Percent Reported Firing An Employee.** “To deal with these rising costs, 34 percent of small businesses report holding off on hiring a new employee while 12 percent report they had to lay off an employee. Fifteen percent report they plan to drop coverage in the coming year—up from just two percent who reported dropping coverage in the last year.” (“2014 Small Business Health Care Survey,” [National Small Business Association](http://www.nsba.biz/wp-content/uploads/2014/02/Health-Care-Survey-2014.pdf" \t "_blank), 2/6/14)

**Small Businesses Reported Spending On Average 13 Hours And $1,274 Per Month On Administrative Costs Just To Understand ObamaCare.** “Despite increased reporting on ACA, the majority of small firms still have a limited to no understanding of how they will be impacted by the law. When asked about the real-world costs of understanding ACA, small businesses report spending on average 13 hours and $1,274 per month—and that’s just on the administrative side of understanding the law itself.” (“2014 Small Business Health Care Survey,” [National Small Business Association](http://www.nsba.biz/wp-content/uploads/2014/02/Health-Care-Survey-2014.pdf" \t "_blank), 2/6/14)

**70 Percent Of Small Businesses Either Did Or Considered Early Renewal To Avoid Increased Costs Due To ObamaCare.** (“2014 Small Business Health Care Survey,” [National Small Business Association](http://www.nsba.biz/wp-content/uploads/2014/02/Health-Care-Survey-2014.pdf" \t "_blank), 2/6/14)

**Less Than One In Ten Small Businesses Reported Plans To Purchase Health Insurance Through The ObamaCare SHOP Exchange, Which Was Set Up For Small Businesses.** “Insurance brokers play an integral role in small-business health insurance with 76 percent of small businesses saying they plan to purchase insurance through their existing broker in the coming year. No surprise given the complexity and various delays with the Affordable Care Act, less than one-in-ten plan to purchase health insurance through the Small Employer Health Options Program (SHOP exchange), and this survey was taken prior to the announced delay by one year of the SHOPs.” (“2014 Small Business Health Care Survey,” [National Small Business Association](http://www.nsba.biz/wp-content/uploads/2014/02/Health-Care-Survey-2014.pdf" \t "_blank), 2/6/14)

**One Third Of Small Businesses Reported “Not Growing” As A Result Of ObamaCare.** (“2014 Small Business Health Care Survey,” [National Small Business Association](http://www.nsba.biz/wp-content/uploads/2014/02/Health-Care-Survey-2014.pdf" \t "_blank), 2/6/14)

## FOREIGN POLICY

*General praise for Obama’s foreign policy.*

**VIDEO: In 2009, Braley Said Obama “Has Been Very Effective” During His First Year In Office.** *THE ASSOCIATED PRESS’S* MIKE GLOVER: “Let's go back to another issue. It was about one year ago that America elected Barack Obama as president, and he took office last January. Give me your report card on Barack Obama's first year in office.” Braley: “Well, I think that he has been very effective in sending a new message to our global allies about the new role that America is going to play in the world as someone who will provide strong leadership in addressing the worldwide financial crisis, worldwide security concerns, and wants to be a partner in important decisions like the upcoming climate summit in Copenhagen. So I think that's been a positive message. People still don't realize the enormity of the challenges that he faced when he took over office. If you look at what we have passed in his first year in office, every one of these pieces of landmark legislation in any other year would have been the signature piece of legislation, and they just keep building and building and building because of the struggle that we're in.” (IPTV’s “[Iowa Press](http://www.iptv.org/iowapress/episode.cfm/3710),” 11/13/09)

**Two Weeks After The 2012 Benghazi Attack, Braley Said That Hillary Clinton Was A “Great Success” As Secretary Of State**

**VIDEO: In September 2012, Braley Said That Hillary Clinton Was A “Great Success” As Secretary Of State.** DES MOINES REGISTER: “So to that end, do you think President Obama has been effective that way with those relationships, that the approach has been well-received out there? What are we seeing out there right now? Braley: “I think Secretary Clinton has been a great success as the ambassador, as Secretary of State, traveling the globe, trying to deal with very difficult crises on a month-to-month basis.” (Editorial Board, [*The Des Moines Register*](http://archive.desmoinesregister.com/VideoNetwork/1860747875001/Rep-Bruce-Braley-meets-with-Register-editorial-board), 9/25/12)

*Braley consistently criticized Bush for failing to have a strategy in the Middle East.*

**Braley Opposed The Iraq Troop Surge**

**“Rep. Bruce Braley, A Waterloo Democrat, Declined To Comment Until After The President's Nationally Televised Speech, But Spokesman Jeff Giertz Said Braley Is ‘Opposed To A Troop Surge.’”** (Jane Norman, “Proposed Troop Surge Met With Skepticism,” *The Des Moines Register*, 1/10/07)

**Opposing The Troop Surge, Braley Said That “The President Stands Alone With A Strategy That His Own Generals, Key Republicans And The American People Oppose.”** “Iowa's two freshman Democrats in the House said troop levels should not escalate. ‘The president stands alone with a strategy that his own generals, key Republicans and the American people oppose,’ said Rep. Bruce Braley.” (Jane Norman, “Harkin To Oppose New Money For Iraq,” *The Des Moines Register*, 1/12/07)

**“Rep. Bruce Braley, D-Iowa, Called Bush's Plan ‘Ill-Advised’ And Said It Does Too Little To Chart A New Direction In Iraq.”** (Mary Rae Bragg, “Critics Blast Iraq Plan; Some Dubuquers And Democratic Lawmakers Oppose Sending 21,500 More Troops,” *Telegraph Herald*, 1/12/07)

**In 2008, Braley Criticized Bush’s Strategy On Iraq And Other Key Issues As “More-Of-The-Same”**

**In 2008, Braley Criticized Bush’s Strategy On Iraq And Other Key Issues As “More-Of-The-Same.”** “‘But the President has a long way to go to convince me that he is truly going to do anything other than more-of-the-same with issues like the war in Iraq, trade, or healthcare. And the President needs to provide real leadership on boosting renewable energy production, not just an occasional mention in a State of the Union.’” (Rep. Bruce Braley, “Braley Reacts To Bush's Final State Of The Union,” [Press Release](http://braley.house.gov/press-release/braley-reacts-bushs-final-state-union), 1/28/08)

**In April 2008, Braley Stated That “We Are No Closer” To A Solution In Iraq And Called For Withdrawal**

**Following Patraeus’s Testimony Before Congress Braley Said The U.S. Is “No Closer” To A Solution In Iraq.** “Rep. Bruce Braley (D-Iowa) released the following statement today on the testimony of General David Petraeus before Congress: ‘While there have been recent security gains on the ground in Iraq, we are no closer today to a political solution for Iraq than we were last September when General Petraeus first testified before Congress.” (Rep. Bruce Braley, “Braley Statement On Petraeus Testimony,” [Press Release](http://braley.house.gov/News/DocumentSingle.aspx?DocumentID=87954), 4/8/08)

**Braley Also Called For Returning Control Of Iraq To The Iraqis.** “It's time to show the Iraqis that we are serious about them taking control of their own country. We need to follow the advice that the Iraq Study Group gave long ago: it's time to set a timeline to redeploy our troops and turn Iraq over to the Iraqis.” (Rep. Bruce Braley, “Braley Statement On Petraeus Testimony,” [Press Release](http://braley.house.gov/News/DocumentSingle.aspx?DocumentID=87954), 4/8/08)

*Braley’s votes on Iran:*

**Rep. Braley Voted Against An Amendment That Would Restrict Funds For Nuclear Non-Proliferation Activity With Russian Until 30 Days After It Was Proven Russia No Longer Supports “The Syrian Government’s Suppression” Of Its People Or Transferring Equipment And Technology That Could Be Used In WMD To Syria, North Korea Or Iran.** “Franks, R-Ariz., amendment that would restrict the availability of funds for nuclear non-proliferation activities with the Russian Federation until 30 days after the Energy, State and Defense secretaries certify to Congress that Russia is no longer providing support to the Syrian government's suppression of the Syrian people or transferring equipment and technology to Syria, Iran or North Korea that could be used to make weapons of mass destruction.” (H.R. 4310, [Roll Call #286](http://clerk.house.gov/evs/2012/roll286.xml): Adopted 241-181: R 229-10, D 12-171, Braley Voted Nay, 5/18/12)

**Rep. Braley Voted Against The FY 2012 Defense Authorization, Which Called “For New Sanctions On Financial Institutions That Do Business With Iran’s Central Bank.”** The bill would also “prohibit the transfer of a detainee to a foreign country until the Defense secretary certifies to Congress the country meets certain security and judicial standards. It also would call for new sanctions on financial institutions that do business with Iran's Central Bank.” (H.R. 1540, [Roll Call Vote #932](http://clerk.house.gov/evs/2011/roll932.xml): Adopted 283-186: R 190-43, D 93-93, Braley Voted Nay, 12/14/11)

**Rep. Braley Voted Against A Motion To Recommit That Would Have Required The President “To Impose Sanctions On Any Entity That Provides Iran With Refined Petroleum Resources Or That Contributes To The Enhancement Of Iran’s Ability To Import Refined Petroleum.** “Burton, R-Ind., motion to recommit the bill to the Foreign Affairs Committee with instructions that it immediately be reported back with language that strikes the text of the bill and substitutes provisions that would require the president to impose sanctions on any entity that provides Iran with refined petroleum resources or that contributes to the enhancement of Iran's ability to import refined petroleum.” (H.R. 2410, [Roll Call Vote #327](http://clerk.house.gov/evs/2009/roll327.xml): Motion Rejected 174-250: R 169-8, D 5-242, Braley Voted Nay, 6/10/09)

**Rep. Braley Voted Against An Amendment That Would Withhold $4.5 Million From The International Atomic Energy Agency, “An Amount Equal To The Monetary Value Of Nuclear Technical Cooperation” The IAEA Had Provided To Iran, Syria, Sudan And Cuba In 2007.** “Ros-Lehtinen, R-Fla., amendment that would require the State Department to withhold $4.5 million from its contributions to the International Atomic Energy Agency, an amount equal to the monetary value of nuclear technical cooperation the agency provided to Iran, Syria, Sudan and Cuba in 2007.” (H.R. 321, [Roll Call Vote #321](http://clerk.house.gov/evs/2009/roll321.xml): Rejected 205-224: D 31-223, R 174-1, Braley Voted Nay, 6/10/09)

*Braley’s votes on Pakistan:*

**Rep. Braley Voted Against An Amendment That Would Have Barred The DoD From Giving Assistance To Pakistan.** (H.R. 4310, [Roll Call #263](http://clerk.house.gov/evs/2012/roll263.xml): Rejected 84-335: R 69-169, D 15-166, Braley Voted Nay, 5/17/12)

* **NOTE:** 169 Republicans also voted against this measure.

*Braley has voted to defund the troops in Iraq, claiming that Iraq was ready to fend for itself.*

**VIDEO: During A 2006 Debate, Braley Said That He Had “Been Studying Foreign Policy For Thirty Years.”** Braley: “I've been studying foreign policy for thirty years, and you've got to have full engagement with the people who are trying to harm you in order to make a difference.” (Bruce Braley, [2006 Iowa 1st Congressional Debate](http://www.c-span.org/video/?194718-1/iowa-1st-congressional-district-debate" \t "_blank), Dubuque, IA, 10/9/06) Min 10:15-10:25

**In 2014, Braley Voted To Prohibit The President’s Authority To Fight Al Qaeda**

**Braley Voted For An Amendment To The Department Of Defense Appropriations Act Of 2015 That Would Stop Funds From Being Used To Implement The 2001 Authorization Of Military Force.** (H.R. 4870 Lee Amendment 34, [Roll Call #330](http://clerk.house.gov/evs/2014/roll330.xml), Failed 157-260: R 21-208, D 157-260, Braley Voted Aye, 6/19/14)

* **The Lee Amendment Would Stop Any Funds From Being Used Under The 2001 Authorization For Use Of Military Force, Which Gives The President The Authority To Use Troops To Fight Al Qaeda.** “Lee, D-Calif., amendment that would bar the use of funds in the bill for any military operations taken under the 2001 authorization for use of force, which provides the legal basis for combat operations in Afghanistan and elsewhere, after Dec. 31, 2014.” (Fiscal 2015 Defense Appropriations - Military Operations Afghanistan, *Congressional Quarterly*, 6/19/14)
* **The Authorization For Use Of Military Force Has Been Used As Justification For Attacks Against Al Qaeda And The Taliban, And In Places Like Yemen And Africa.** “The law authorized a military response to the terrorist attacks by striking back against al Qaeda and associated forces, including their Taliban allies, who at the time ruled Afghanistan. Its scope is broad enough that it has been used by successive administrations to carry out military attacks as far afield as Africa and Yemen.” (Evan Perez, “Setback For Ending The ‘Never-Ending’ War,” [CNN](http://www.cnn.com/2014/05/22/politics/military-force-authorization/), 5/22/14)

**Braley Opposes Continued Involvement In Iraq**

**In June 2014, Braley Said That “It Is Not A Smart Move” To Get Involved In Another Iraq War.** “Democratic congressman Bruce Braley says President Obama should be cautious about re-committing U.S. military might in Iraq. ‘I think after 10 years of investing American treasure and blood on the soil of Iraq, it is not a smart move to get involved in another prolonged, sectarian war in Iraq,’ Braley says.” (O. Kay Henderson, “Braley Says It’s ‘Not A Smart Move’ To Get Involved In Another Iraq War,” [Radio Iowa](http://www.radioiowa.com/2014/06/17/braley-says-its-not-a-smart-move-to-get-involved-in-another-iraq-war/), 6/17/14)

* **Braley Says That Iowans Want To See The Iraqi People “Stand Up For Themselves.”** “‘Iowans want to see the Iraqi people and the Iraqi military and the Iraqi police forces stand up for themselves,’ Braley says, ‘and they have to do it.’” (O. Kay Henderson, “Braley Says It’s ‘Not A Smart Move’ To Get Involved In Another Iraq War,” [Radio Iowa](http://www.radioiowa.com/2014/06/17/braley-says-its-not-a-smart-move-to-get-involved-in-another-iraq-war/), 6/17/14)

**In 2006, Braley Said He Would Vote To Cut Off Funding For Troops On The Ground**

**POTENTIAL VIDEO: In May 2006, Braley Said He Would Vote To Cut Off Funding For The Troops On The Ground In Order To Bring Them Home.** *THE DES MOINES REGISTER’S* DAVID YEPSEN: “You cut off funds to the troops?” Braley: “Well, that's what Congress does; they appropriate the money. If the administration is not carrying out the wishes of the people of this country, Congress has to start making choices.” YEPSEN: “But do you vote to do that, as was done back in Vietnam? Do you vote to cut off the funds?” Braley: “To cut off the funds to our troops on the ground?” YEPSEN: “To get them home?” Braley: “To get them home. Yes, you bring them home.” (IPTV’s “[Iowa Press](http://www.iptv.org/iowapress/episode.cfm/3339),” 5/19/06)

**In May 2007, Braley Voted To Cut Off Funding For The Troops In Iraq**

**In May 2007, Braley Voted Against Funding The Troops In Iraq.** (H.R. 2206, [Roll Call #425](http://clerk.house.gov/evs/2007/roll425.xml): Passed 280-142, D 80-140, R 194-2, 5/24/07, Braley Voted Nay)

**Braley Claimed That He Couldn’t Vote To Give President Bush A “Blank Check To Continue His Failed Policy In Iraq.”** “Freshman Rep. Bruce Braley, D-Iowa, voted against the bill and issued this statement: ‘The American people and the people of Iowa have demanded a new direction in Iraq. That's why I cannot support legislation that excludes a reasonable timetable for redeployment, effectively writing the President a blank check to continue his failed policy in Iraq ... Last November, the American people called for a change in Iraq. That's why today I won't support a bill that allows the President to ‘stay the course.’” (Mary Rae Bragg, “Politicians Weigh In On Bill Funding Iraq War,” *Telegraph Herald*, 5/27/07)

**Braley Claimed That America’s Policy In Iraq Has Failed**

**Braley Wanted The Democrats To Take The House So Congress Lives “Up To Its Role As A Check And Balance On The Power Of This Presidency.”** “‘The people I talk with want us to start taking control of our destiny instead of having foreign policy dictated by when we are told by the Iraqis when we should leave. It is time for Congress to live up to its role as a check and balance on the power of this presidency,’ said Braley, a Waterloo attorney.” (Tom Witosky, “1st District Candidates Put Iraq War First During Debate,” *The Des Moines Register*, 10/4/06)

**“In Response, Braley Said: ‘More Of The Same Is Not Success. Our Policy In Iraq Has Failed. You Talk About Chaos Ensuing If We Leave, Chaos Already Is Ensuing In Iraq, Mike.’”** (Tom Witosky, “1st District Candidates Put Iraq War First During Debate,” *The Des Moines Register*, 10/4/06)

**In December 2009, Braley Traveled To Iraq Where He Said The Military Was On Target For Its Withdrawal And That Iraq Was Prepared To Fend For Itself**

**In December 2009, Braley Traveled To Iraq Where He Claimed That The Military Was On Pace For A Withdrawal By August 31, 2010.** “U.S. Rep. Bruce Braley made his first visit to Iraq over the weekend and returned with a sense the U.S. withdrawal of combat troops is going as planned. Braley, a Democrat who serves eastern Iowa, said it appears U.S. forces are on target to have all but 50,000 soldiers pulled out of Iraq by Aug. 31, 2010. The rest of the troops will leave by the end of 2011 under an Iraqi-U.S. security pact. Braley also said he had candid conversations with U.S. officials about the possibility of internal strife between religious groups after U.S. forces depart.” (William Petroski, “Braley: Withdrawal From Iraq Going As Planned,” *The Des Moines Register*, 12/16/09)

* **Braley: “I Think The General Feeling Was That We Need To Leave Iraq In A Position Where It Is Able To Fend For Itself And To Nurture This Growing Democracy.”** “One of the subjects Braley said he discussed with U.S. officials was the end objective for Iraq. Many people consider Iraq to be a strategic player in the region because of the buffer it provides between Iran and some of its neighbors. ‘I think the general feeling was that we need to leave Iraq in a position where it is able to fend for itself and to nurture this growing democracy,’ he said.” (William Petroski, “Braley: Withdrawal From Iraq Going As Planned,” *The Des Moines Register*, 12/16/09)

*Braley also voted to cut off funding for the troops in Afghanistan.*

**Braley Voted To Cut Off Funding For The Troops In Afghanistan**

**In 2012, Braley Voted Against The Defense Appropriations Bill Because It Included Expenditures For The War In Afghanistan.** “Rep. Bruce Braley (IA-01) released the following statement today after voting against a $607 billion defense spending bill: **‘**While there are parts of the Defense Appropriations Bill that I strongly support - a pay raise for our troops and a provision blocking cuts to the Iowa Air National Guard's 132nd Fighter Wing in Des Moines, for example - I cannot vote to spend nearly $90 billion to continue combat operations in Afghanistan that began over a decade ago.’” (Rep. Bruce Braley, “Braley Statement On Defense Appropriations Bill,” [Press Release](http://braley.house.gov/press-release/braley-statement-defense-appropriations-bill), 7/19/12)

**Braley: “I Cannot Vote To Spend Nearly $90 Billion To Continue Combat Operations In Afghanistan That Began Over A Decade Ago.”** (Rep. Bruce Braley, “Braley Statement On Defense Appropriations Bill,” [Press Release](http://braley.house.gov/press-release/braley-statement-defense-appropriations-bill), 7/19/12)

* **In July 2012, Braley Voted Against The Defense Appropriations Bill That Funds The Troops In Afghanistan, And Gives Them A Pay Raise.** (H.R. 5856, [Roll Call Vote #498](http://clerk.house.gov/evs/2012/roll498.xml): Passed 326-90, D 101-79, R 225-11, 7/19/12, Braley Voted Nay)

**Braley: “We Have Accomplished The Objectives Of Our Mission In Afghanistan.”** Braley: “We have accomplished the objectives of our mission in Afghanistan. Osama bin Laden is dead, al-Qaida has been marginalized, and the Afghan government has been stabilized. It's time to bring our brave men and women home to their families and focus on rebuilding America.” (Rep. Bruce Braley, “Braley Statement On Defense Appropriations Bill,” [Press Release](http://braley.house.gov/press-release/braley-statement-defense-appropriations-bill), 7/19/12)

*Braley opposed military intervention in Libya.*

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**In 2011, Braley Signed A Letter To President Obama Urging Him To Withdraw Troops From Afghanistan**

**In 2011, Braley Signed A Letter To President Obama Urging Him To Withdraw Troops From Afghanistan.** “We urge a significant and sizable reduction of U.S. military forces in Afghanistan beginning July 2011. With Osama bin Laden killed and Al Qaeda largely driven from Afghanistan, it is time to accelerate the transfer of security responsibilities to the Government of Afghanistan and to reduce the U.S. military footprint there.” (Bruce Braley et al., [Letter To President Obama](http://honda.house.gov/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=1069&Itemid=110), 6/21/11)

**The Letter Stated That The Public Is “Weary Of War With No End In Sight” And So Obama Must Bring The War To A Close.** “The American public is weary of a war with no end in sight, and we call upon you to bring the longest war in our nation's history to a close. Beginning in July of this year, we urge a swift, significant and sizable drawdown of U.S. troops from Afghanistan.” (Bruce Braley et al., [Letter To President Obama](http://honda.house.gov/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=1069&Itemid=110), 6/21/11)

**In 2011 Braley Called For Withdrawal And Said The Cost Of Continuing War In Afghanistan Was “Just Too High”**

**In 2011 Braley Called For Withdrawal And Said The Cost Of Continuing War In Afghanistan Was “Just Too High.”** “I believe the time has come for us to begin an immediate withdrawal of our combat troops from Afghanistan -- with the goal of having them home by the end of 2011. This isn't a decision I came to lightly, but one that I have struggled with for some time. Our justifications for going into Afghanistan are no longer valid, and meanwhile, the costs -- both human and financial -- of continuing this war are just too high.” (Rep. Bruce Braley, “Braley Calls For Immediate Withdrawal Of U.S. Combat Troops from Afghanistan,” [Press Release](http://braley.house.gov/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=942&Itemid=100013), 5/26/11)

**Braley Opposed Military Intervention In Libya Because It Would Cost The Taxpayer: “If We're Going To Be Involved In Libya, We Must Know How Much A Third Military Conflict Will Cost Us.”** “Braley said adding Libya to two current military conflicts - Iraq and Afghanistan - runs counter to Congress' desire to cut federal spending and decrease the national debt. ‘If we're going to be involved in Libya, we must know how much a third military conflict will cost us,’ Braley wrote. He added: ‘I think it's important that the president give us and all American taxpayers an accurate answer on this issue.’ Braley said America has concerns on the home front it needs to address, spending being the most critical.” (“Braley Questions Cost Of U.S. Action In Libya,” *Telegraph Herald*, 3/27/11)

**In June 2011, Braley Voted Against Military Intervention In Libya.** (H.J. Res 68, [Roll Call Vote #493](http://clerk.house.gov/evs/2011/roll493.xml): Failed 123-295, D 115-70, R 8-225, 6/24/11, Braley Voted Nay)

*While Braley was “convinced” that Syria used chemical weapons, he also opposed direct action, saying that the U.S. should coordinate with Russia.*

**In September 2014 Braley Voted In Favor Of The Continuing Resolution To Arm Moderate Syrian Rebels**

**NOTE: By September 19, 2014 Braley Had Not Issued An Official Statement On His Vote To Train Syrian Rebels.**

**On September 17, 2014, Braley Voted For The McKeon Amendment To H.J. Res 124, The FY2015 Continuing Appropriations Resolution.** (McKeon Amendment To H.J. Res 124, [Roll Call #507](http://clerk.house.gov/evs/2014/roll507.xml), Passed 273-156: R 159-71, D 114-85, Braley Voted Aye, 9/17/14)

**The McKeon Amendment To H.J. Res 124 Would “Grant President Obama Authority To Train And Arm Moderate Syrian Rebels Waging War Against Islamic Extremists.”** “The House voted Wednesday to grant President Obama authority to train and arm moderate Syrian rebels waging war against Islamic extremists. Despite vocal opposition from both war-weary liberals and defense hawks who feel the Syria plan should include more robust steps, a bipartisan coalition voted 273-156 to back Obama’s plan to give military aid to vetted members of the Free Syrian Army.” (Scott Wong And Christina Marcos, “House Approves Syria Aid,” *The Hill’s* [Floor Action](http://thehill.com/blogs/floor-action/house/218074-house-approves-syria-rebel-aid), 9/17/14)

* **“But The McKeon Amendment Explicitly Does Not Authorize The Use Of Military Force Against ISIS.”**(Scott Wong And Christina Marcos, “House Approves Syria Aid,” *The Hill’s* [Floor Action](http://thehill.com/blogs/floor-action/house/218074-house-approves-syria-rebel-aid), 9/17/14)

**The Amendment Requires The Defense Secretary To Give 15 Days Notice Before Beginning Any Training Of Syrian Rebels, Would Require They Receive Background Checks, And Require The Pentagon To Provide Status Briefings To Congress Every 90 Days.** “The narrower Syria amendment, introduced by Armed Services Committee Chairman Buck McKeon (R-Calif.) and backed by congressional leaders in both parties, places some restrictions on the president’s authority. Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel would have to notify lawmakers at least 15 days before beginning any training of Syrian rebels, and would have to ensure all fighters being trained in the program receive background checks. The Pentagon also would be required to provide status briefings to Congress every 90 days.” (Scott Wong And Christina Marcos, “House Approves Syria Aid,” *The Hill’s* [Floor Action](http://thehill.com/blogs/floor-action/house/218074-house-approves-syria-rebel-aid), 9/17/14)

**Earlier In The Month, Braley Was Leaning Toward Opposing Action In Syria**

**Earlier In The Month, Braley Was Leaning Toward Opposing Action In Syria.** “The reason for any messiness? Braley initially was leaning toward opposing it. ‘We’ve been to this dance before and we saw what happened in Iraq,’ he said earlier this month.” (Greg Giroux and John McCormick, “Islamic State Vote Puts 2014 Senate Candidates On Spot,” [*Bloomberg*](http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2014-09-19/islamic-state-vote-puts-2014-senate-candidates-on-spot.html), 9/19/14)

***Braley’s Votes On Funding F-22 Fighter Jets***

**In 2009 Braley Voted For H.R. 3326.** (H.R. 3326, [Roll Call #661](http://clerk.house.gov/evs/2009/roll661.xml), Passed 269-165; R 26- 152, D 243- 13, Braley Voted Aye, 7/30/09)

**H.R 3326 Would Bar The Use Of Funds For Advance Procurement Of F-22 Aircraft**. “Murtha, D-Pa., amendment that would bar the use of funds in the bill for advance procurement of F-22 aircraft and shift $368.8 million that would be provided in the bill for advance procurement to other accounts, including the purchase of spare engines for F-22 and C-17 aircraft and the shutdown of the F-22 production line.” (Rep. Phil Roe, [Official Website](http://roe.house.gov/news/documentprint.aspx?DocumentID=216938), Accessed 10/7/14)

**The F-22 Fighter Jets Served A “Crucial Purpose” In September 2014 Airstrikes Against Syria.** “The Pentagon's most advanced fighter plane made its combat debut in the U.S.-led strikes on Syria, serving a crucial purpose for a sensitive mission that depended on stealth. Pilots flying the F-22 Raptor flew bombing runs over Syria to target the militant Islamic State group, U.S. officials said**.**” (Julian E. Barnes, “In Syria, Pentagon's F-22 Fighter Plane Makes First Combat Appearance,” [*The Wall Street Journal*](http://online.wsj.com/articles/in-syria-pentagons-f-22-fighter-plane-makes-first-combat-appearance-1411477246), 9/23/14)

***2013***

**In August 2013, Braley Did Not Oppose Action In Syria But Called For The President To Seek Congressional Approval**

**In August 2013, Braley Did Not Oppose Action In Syria But Called For The President To Seek Congressional Approval.** “And Rep. Bruce Braley (D-Iowa) said a U.S. response is ‘appropriate’ but only with congressional approval. ‘Congressional involvement not only will add credibility to our actions in the international community, it will send a stronger message to the Syrian regime that America stands united against its despicable acts,’ Braley said.” (Reid J. Epstein and Seung Min Kim, Anti-War Democrats Speak Up On Syria, [*Politico*](http://www.politico.com/story/2013/08/syria-anti-war-democrats-96008.html?hp=l7), 8/28/13)

**In September 2013, Braley Declared He Was “Unconvinced” The Situation In Syria Required Military Action**

**On September 11, 2013, Braley Said He Remained “Unconvinced That A Limited U.S. Military Strike” Was Required In Syria.**“Speaking to Iowa reporters during his weekly press call, Braley, a Democrat, went almost day-by-day in relating the people he’s talked to and information he’s sought since Aug. 21, when the Syrian government apparently launched chemical weapons against its citizens, and Aug.3 1, when President Barack Obama called for a military response. ‘After attending all of those meetings and briefings and having the opportunity to question the president’s top national security advisers and listen to his speech last night, I continue to be unconvinced that a limited U.S. military strike is the appropriate response to the atrocities committed in Syria,’ he said.” (Jason Noble, “Iowans, Experts Convinced Bruce Braley To Avoid Military Strike On Syria,” [*The Des Moines Register*](http://blogs.desmoinesregister.com/dmr/index.php/2013/09/11/iowans-experts-convinced-bruce-braley-to-oppose-military-strike-on-syria/article), 9/11/13)

**In September 2013, Braley Said He Was “Pleased” With The Obama Administration’s Evaluation To Pursue Diplomatic Efforts With Syria.**

**In September 2013, Braley Said He Was “Pleased” With The Obama Administration, Citing Chairman Of The Joint Chiefs Martin Dempsey’s Evaluation To Refrain From Military Action In Syria.**  “Given his concerns about the risks of military engagement, Braley said he was “pleased” to hear that the Obama administration would pursue diplomatic efforts in which Syria would turn over its chemical weapons to avoid an American attack. ‘Gen. Dempsey has accurately summarized why, after all of the information that I have evaluated, I continue to believe that the use of military force in Syria is not the appropriate response and is not necessary to protect the national security interests of United States,’ Braley said.” (Jason Noble, “Iowans, Experts Convinced Bruce Braley To Avoid Military Strike On Syria,” [*The Des Moines Register*](http://blogs.desmoinesregister.com/dmr/index.php/2013/09/11/iowans-experts-convinced-bruce-braley-to-oppose-military-strike-on-syria/article), 9/11/13)

**VIDEO: In September 2013, Braley Said That While He Was “Absolutely Convinced Syria Used Chemical Weapons,” He Did Not Think “That A Military Response Is Necessary.”** “Well, I am absolutely convinced that Syria used chemical weapons against its own citizens in clear violation of international law. And that the international community needs to come together to come up with a plan for holding them accountable, but I am not convinced that the national security interests of the United States have been threatened to the extent that a military response is necessary.” (KCCI’s [“News Friday](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K5XFTWKyEI4),” Uploaded 9/6/13)

* **VIDEO: Braley Said He Was “Strongly Opposed” to “A Regional Conflict That Will Drag Us Further Into War.”** Braley “One of the things we need to know, is what is the probability that this intervention with ignite a regional conflict that will drag us further into war and require us to commit additional resources, including the possibility of putting boots on the ground, which anyone that I’ve talked to has been strongly opposed to.” (KCCI’s [“News Friday](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K5XFTWKyEI4),” Uploaded 9/6/13)
* **VIDEO: Braley Said The UN Should Decide A Global Course Of Action, On Syria, With Input From Both US And Russia.** “If we have the evidence that the Administration says it has, we need to take that to the United Nations, present it the way we did when Colin Powell went there before we attacked Iraq. And there were some problems with the intelligence in that presentation and we all paid a long price for that. But if we have the evidence we need to present it. If the Russian government claims they have evidence to the contrary we should let them present it and then let the world community decide whether action is necessary and we should take it.”(KCCI’s [“News Friday](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K5XFTWKyEI4),” Uploaded 9/6/13)

*Braley opposed the Iraq Surge in 2007 and 2008.*

**“Rep. Bruce Braley, A Waterloo Democrat, Declined To Comment Until After The President's Nationally Televised Speech, But Spokesman Jeff Giertz Said Braley Is ‘Opposed To A Troop Surge.’”** (Jane Norman, “Proposed Troop Surge Met With Skepticism,” *The Des Moines Register*, 1/10/07)

**Opposing The Troop Surge, Braley Said That “The President Stands Alone With A Strategy That His Own Generals, Key Republicans And The American People Oppose.”** “Iowa's two freshman Democrats in the House said troop levels should not escalate. ‘The president stands alone with a strategy that his own generals, key Republicans and the American people oppose,’ said Rep. Bruce Braley.” (Jane Norman, “Harkin To Oppose New Money For Iraq,” *The Des Moines Register*, 1/12/07)

**“Rep. Bruce Braley, D-Iowa, Called Bush's Plan ‘Ill-Advised’ And Said It Does Too Little To Chart A New Direction In Iraq.”** (Mary Rae Bragg, “Critics Blast Iraq Plan; Some Dubuquers And Democratic Lawmakers Oppose Sending 21,500 More Troops,” *Telegraph Herald*, 1/12/07)

**Braley Did Not Rule Out Cutting Off Funding For The Troops In Iraq, Because He Did Not Believe That The Surge Was Working**

**POTENTIAL AUDIO: In April 2007, Braley Said That It Was Not Yet Time To Cut Off Funding For The Troops In Iraq, Because The House Had Several Bills Defining An Exit Strategy.** NPR’S STEVE INSKEEP: “So you suggested during the campaign that you might be willing to cut off funding for the war. Has the time come to use that power?” Braley: “Well, I don't think it has yet because we have -- right now, pending in both houses -- votes that we've taken in a supplemental appropriations bill that provides clear oversight to the president and an increased accountability with a defined exit strategy. Those two different versions are going to go to conference committee and we are waiting to see what comes out of that conference committee before we decide what the next move is.” (NPR’s “Morning Edition,” 4/4/07)

**POTENTIAL AUDIO: Braley Claimed That The “Strongest Argument” For Cutting Off Funding For The Troops Was That President Bush’s Surge Strategy Was Failing And Wasn’t Working.** INSKEEP: “Can you give me the strongest argument that you can for cutting off funding -- for taking that particular step if you have to?” Braley: “Well, the strongest argument is because the president's policies in Iraq are failing, the surge strategy that he has outlined isn't working -- despite comments by leading Republicans to the contrary. Six hundred Iraqi civilians were killed last week. That doesn't sound like a successful strategy under the surge. That's why the American people have demanded and expect a new direction in Iraq.” (NPR’s “Morning Edition,” 4/4/07)

**POTENTIAL AUDIO: Braley Argued That The “Dangers Of Cutting Off Funding” For The Troops In Iraq Were The Same As The Dangers Of Cutting Off Funding For Kosovo.** INSKEEP: “What are the dangers, if any, for cutting off funding?” Braley: “Wells, the dangers of cutting off funding are the same dangers that a Republican Congress faced when they decided to cut off funding for the ground war in Kosovo. Many of the same people that are complaining about this strategy that we have outlined in our supplemental are the same people who voted for that. Mr. Boehner, Mr. Blunt voted for a micromanaging approach to the war in Kosovo that they now complain of in connection with the supplemental.” (NPR’s “Morning Edition,” 4/4/07)

*Braley has generally supported the Bowe Bergdahl swap.*

**In September 2014 Braley Voted To Condemn Obama’s Failure To Notify Congress Before Releasing Guantanamo Bay Detainees**

**On September 9, 2014, Braley Voted For H. Res. 644, Condemning The Obama Administration’s Failure To Notify Congress Before Releasing Guantanamo Bay Detainees.** (H. Res. 644, [Roll Call #485](http://clerk.house.gov/evs/2014/roll485.xml), Passed 249-163: R 277-0, D 22-163, Braley Voted Aye, 9/9/14)

**The Executive Branch Is Required By The 2014 Defense Appropriations Act To Notify Congress At Least 30 Days Before Transferring Prisoners From Guantanamo Bay.** “The House passed a resolution on Tuesday condemning the Obama administration for not giving Congress advance notice of the exchange of Army Sgt. Bowe Bergdahl for five Taliban prisoners. The measure passed largely along party lines in a 249-163 vote, but 22 Democrats broke ranks to rebuke the president, with just two months to go before the midterm elections. The executive branch is required by the 2014 Defense Appropriations Act to notify Congress at least 30 days before transferring prisoners at the Guantánamo Bay detention facility. A Government Accountability Office report found last month that the administration violated the law by not adhering to the requirement.” (Christina Marcos, “House Votes To Condemn Administration Over Taliban Prisoner Swap,” *The Hill’s* [Floor Action](http://thehill.com/blogs/floor-action/house/217156-house-votes-to-condemn-obama-over-taliban-prisoner-swap), 9/9/14)

**A Government Accountability Office (GAO) Found That The Obama Administration Broke The Law In Conducting The Bergdahl Swap Without Notifying Congress.** “The Obama administration broke the law when it exchanged five Taliban commanders for a captured U.S. soldier without giving Congress 30 days notice, according to a review by the nonpartisan Government Accountability Office. The GAO released its opinion on Thursday, saying the Defense Department violated the Defense Appropriations Act by failing to inform lawmakers about its plan to transfer prisoners from Guantanamo Bay in a controversial deal to secure the release of Army Sgt. Bowe Bergdahl.” (Josh Hicks, “Guantanamo Prisoner Transfer For Bowe Bergdahl Violated Laws, Review Finds,” *The Washington Post’s* [Federal Law](http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/federal-eye/wp/2014/08/21/gao-pentagon-broke-law-with-guantanamo-transfer-for-bowe-bergdahl/), 8/21/14)

* **The GAO: “We Conclude That DOD Violated Section 8111 Because It Did Not Notify The Relevant Congressional Committees At Least 30 Days In Advance Of The Transfer.”** “This responds to your June 13, 2014, request for our opinion on whether the Department of Defense (DOD) incurred obligations in violation of section 8111 of the Department of Defense Appropriations Act, 2014 when it transferred five individuals detained at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, to the nation of Qatar. Section 8111 prohibits DOD from using appropriated funds to transfer any individuals detained at Guantanamo Bay unless the Secretary of Defense notifies certain congressional committees at least 30 days before the transfer. Pub. L. No. 113-76, div. C, title VIII, § 8111, 128 Stat. 5, 131 (Jan. 17, 2014). As explained below, we conclude that DOD violated section 8111 because it did not notify the relevant congressional committees at least 30 days in advance of the transfer.” (Susan A. Poling, U.S. Government Accountability Office General Counsel, [Letter To Sens. McConnell And Shelby](http://www.gao.gov/assets/670/665390.pdf), 8/21/14)

**But Braley Praised The Bowe Bergdahl Swap, Saying That The U.S. Had A Responsibility To Act**

**In June 2014, Braley Said That The U.S. Had A Responsibility To Act In The Recovery Of Bowe Bergdahl.** “He says the U.S. had a responsibility to act. ‘I think that the American people and Iowans fundamentally believe that we have a moral responsibility to bring home those men and women who volunteer to serve our country and are captured or otherwise detained.’” (KGAN, 6/11/14)

***Before Voting To Condemn Obama’s Actions, Braley Voted Against Measures To Restrict The Administration’s Ability To Transfer Detainees***

**In June 2014, Braley Voted To Allow Federal Dollars To Be Used For The Transfer Of Guantanamo Detainees, Effectively Permitting Obama To Follow Through On The Swap**

**Braley Voted Against An Amendment To The Department Of Defense Appropriations Act Of 2015 That Would Restrict The Transfer Or Release Of GITMO Detainees To Any Foreign Country.** (H.R. 4870 Cotton Amendment, [Roll Call #323](http://clerk.house.gov/evs/2014/roll323.xml), Passed 230-184: R 218-10, D 12-174, Braley Voted No, 6/19/14)

* **The Cotton Amendment Would Effectively Prevent The Obama Administration From Releasing Guantanamo Bay Prisoners To Other Countries.** “The House late Thursday night approved a proposal to prohibit federal dollars from being used for transfers of Guantanamo Bay detainees in light of the controversy over Sgt. Bowe Bergdahl's release. Rep. Tom Cotton's (R-Ark.) amendment to the 2015 Defense appropriations bill, adopted 230-184, would effectively prevent the Obama administration from releasing Guantanamo Bay prisoners to other countries.” (Cristina Marcos, “House Votes To Ban Gitmo Transfers,” *The Hill’s* [Floor Action](http://thehill.com/blogs/floor-action/house/210026-house-votes-to-ban-gitmo-transfers), 6/19/14)

**Braley Voted For Allowing The Transfer Of GITMO Detainees**

**Braley Voted For An Amendment To The Department Of Defense Appropriations Act Of 2015 That Would Have Allowed The Funding Of The Transfer Or Release Of Any Individual Detained At Guantanamo Bay.** (H.R. 4870 Moran Amendment, [Roll Call #324](http://clerk.house.gov/evs/2014/roll324.xml), Failed 163-249: R 4-224, D 159-25, Braley Voted Aye, 6/19/14)

* **The Moran Amendment Would Undo Provisions In The Bill That Prohibit Funds From Being Used To Release Or Transfer Guantanamo Bay Detainees.** “The Virginia Democrat later offered his own amendment, rejected 163-249, that would undo provisions in the bill that prohibit funds from being used to release or transfer Guantanamo Bay detainees, as well as block funds for constructing facilities to house the prisoners in the U.S.” (Cristina Marcos, “House Votes To Ban Gitmo Transfers,” *The Hill’s* [Floor Action](http://thehill.com/blogs/floor-action/house/210026-house-votes-to-ban-gitmo-transfers), 6/19/14)

*In 2009, Braley was a vocal supporter of transferring Guantanamo Bay detainees to the Midwest.*

**On November 16, 2009 Braley Visited Thomson, IL With Federal Officials To Explore The Possibility Of Moving Gitmo Prisoners To The Midwest**

**VIDEO [1:44]: On November 16, 2009 Braley Said That Individuals Should Not “Rush To Judgment For Some Political Purpose” On Transferring Prisoners To Thomson.** “I decided to come here today, myself, so I could see with my own eyes to see what the facility consists of and listen to the briefings I got today by members of the Department of Defense, representatives of the prison, local correctional experts and local law enforcement officials who deal with whatever decision is ultimately made. And I would caution everybody who is looking at what is happening here to listen, learn and study for themselves what’s really at stake here, rather than to rush to judgment for some political purpose.” (Bruce Braley, [Press Conference On Housing Guantanamo Prisoners](https://americarisingllc.box.com/s/jsk2y4b0hve9yuiv8cuc), Thomson, IL, 11/16/09)

**Two Days Later, Braley Gave His Full-Throated Endorsement For The Use Of Thomson Prison On MSNBC**

**VIDEO: On November 18, 2009 Braley Said He Endorsed Brining Guantanamo Prisoners To Thomson Prison.** RATIGAN: “Is that an endorsement on your part of bringing these prisoners here so that they can then be processed in some sort of -- in some aspect of the justice system in ultimate result.”Braley: “Yeah, I happen to agree with Secretary of Defense Gates and Admiral Mullens (sic) and General Petraeus and John McCain and conservative commentators like Bob Barr and Grover Norquist that we are capable of providing justice even to people who have engaged in terrorist acts against us, prosecuting them to the fullest extent of the law and incarcerating them the way we do right now all over this country in federal facilities, including the facility in Marion, Illinois which holds a convicted al Qaeda terrorist.” (Rep. Bruce Braley, [MSNBC](https://americarisingllc.box.com/s/ndvf6akk92qckvxiaktp)’s “Morning Meeting,” 11/18/09)

*Braley’s controversial votes on detainees:*

**Rep. Braley Voted Against An Amendment Prohibiting The Use Of Funds To Transfer Gitmo Detainees To Yemen.** “Walorski, R-Ind., amendment that would bar the use of funds provided by the bill to transfer or release detainees who were held or detained by the Defense Department on or after June 24, 2009, at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba to the Republic of Yemen.” (H.R. 4870, [Roll Call #321](http://clerk.house.gov/evs/2014/roll321.xml): Adopted 238-179: R 221-4, D 17-175, Braley Voted Nay, 6/19/14)

**Rep. Braley Voted Against An Amendment Prohibiting The Use Of Funds To Transfer Gitmo Detainees To Yemen.** “Walorski, R-Ind., amendment that would bar the use of funds in the bill to transfer or release detainees held at Guantanamo Bay on or after June 24, 2009 to Yemen.” (H.R. 2397, [Roll Call #405](http://clerk.house.gov/evs/2013/roll405.xml): Adopted 238-185: R 224-3, D 14-182, Braley Voted Nay, 7/24/13)

**Rep. Braley Voted Against An Amendment Prohibiting The Use Of Funds To Transfer Gitmo Detainees To Yemen.** “Walorski, R-Ind., amendment that would prohibit the Defense Department from using any funds authorized in the bill for the transfer or release of Guantanamo detainees to Yemen.” (H.R. 1960, [Roll Call #236](http://clerk.house.gov/evs/2013/roll236.xml): Adopted 236-188: R 225-5, D 11-183, Braley Voted Nay, 6/14/13)

**Rep. Braley Voted Against The FY 2013 Defense Authorization, Which Blocked The Use Of DOD Funds For One Year To Transfer Or Release Prisoners At The Guantanamo Bay” And Clarified That Suspected U.S. Terrorists Detained Inside The United States Be Tried Only In Federal Civilian Courts.”** “Adoption of the conference report on the bill that would authorize $648.7 billion for defense programs in fiscal 2013, including $85.5 billion for overseas military operations. It would authorize $237.7 billion for operations and maintenance and $149.8 billion for military personnel. It would authorize $10.8 billion for military construction and family housing projects but prohibit funds to start another round of base closures. It would authorize $33.6 billion for the Defense Health Program as well as a 1.7 percent pay raise for military personnel. The measure would block the use of Defense Department funds for one year to transfer or release prisoners at the Guantanamo Bay, Cuba detention center into the United States and its territories or possessions. It also would clarify that suspected U.S. terrorists detained inside the United States be tried only in federal civilian courts. It would authorize the use of Defense Department funds for abortion for military personnel in cases of rape or incest.” (H.R. 4310, [Roll Call #645](http://clerk.house.gov/evs/2012/roll645.xml): R 204-31, D 110-77, Braley Voted Nay, 12/20/12)

**Rep. Braley Voted Against The FY 2012 Defense Authorization That Prohibited “The Transfer Of A Detainee To A Foreign Country Until The Defense Secretary Certifies … The Country Meets Certain Security And Judicial Standards.”** The bill would also “prohibit the transfer of a detainee to a foreign country until the Defense secretary certifies to Congress the country meets certain security and judicial standards. It also would call for new sanctions on financial institutions that do business with Iran's Central Bank.” (H.R. 1540, [Roll Call Vote #932](http://clerk.house.gov/evs/2011/roll932.xml): Adopted 283-186: R 190-43, D 93-93, Braley Voted Nay, 12/14/11)

**Rep. Braley Did Not Vote On The FY 2013 Defense Authorization, Which Prohibited The Transfer Of Guantanamo Bay Detainees.** “Passage of the bill that would authorize $642.7 billion in discretionary funding for defense programs in fiscal 2013, including $554 billion for the Defense Department and national security programs and $88.5 billion in contingency funds for the war in Afghanistan and the general war on terrorism. It includes $236.1 billion for operations and maintenance accounts, $109.4 billion for procurement and $149.7 billion for military personnel. The bill would authorize approximately $10.8 billion for military construction and family housing; $32.8 billion for the Defense Health Program and a 1.7 percent pay raise for military personnel. As amended, the bill would prohibit the transfer of detainees from Guantanamo Bay to the United States and other countries and limit the president's ability to decommission nuclear weapons, as required by the New START agreement with Russia.” (H.R. 4310, [Roll Call #291](http://clerk.house.gov/evs/2012/roll291.xml): Passed 299-120: R 222-16, D 77-104, Braley Voted Nay, 5/18/12)

**Rep. Braley Voted Against The FY 2012 DHS Funding Bill, Which Would Have Barred The Use Of Funds To Transfer Individuals From Guantanamo Bay.** “Passage of the bill that would provide $42.3 billion in fiscal 2012 for the Homeland Security Department and related activities. The bill would include $11.8 billion for customs and border protection; $7.8 billion for the Transportation Security Administration, including fees; $10.1 billion for the Coast Guard; $1.7 billion for the Secret Service and $5.4 billion for the Federal Emergency Management Agency. It would include $258 million for the global war on terrorism and $1 billion in emergency spending for disaster relief. The bill would restructure FEMA state and local grant programs to allow for the dispersement [sic] of funding based on highest risk. It also would bar the use of funds to move detainees at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, into the United States.” (H.R. 2017, [Roll Call Vote #409](http://clerk.house.gov/evs/2011/roll409.xml): Passed 231-188: R 214-20, D 17-168, Braley Voted Nay, 6/2/11)

*In 2012, Braley declared the mission in Afghanistan “accomplished” and al-Qaeda “marginalized.”*

**In July 2012, Braley State That “We Have Accomplished The Objectives Of Our Mission In Afghanistan,” And That “al-Qaida Has Been Marginalized.”** “We have accomplished the objectives of our mission in Afghanistan. Osama bin Laden is dead, al-Qaida has been marginalized, and the Afghan government has been stabilized. It’s time to bring our brave men and women home to their families and focus on rebuilding America.” (Rep Bruce Braley, “Braley Statement On Defense Appropriations Bill,” [Press Release](https://braley.house.gov/press-release/braley-statement-defense-appropriations-bill), 7/21/14)

*In 2011 during the Arab Spring, Braley emphasized the importance of the U.S.’s good relations with Egypt and encouraged Obama to withdraw troops from the Middle East.*

**In January 2011, Braley Issued One Statement On The Arab Spring, Stating That The U.S.’s Close Relationship With Egypt Must Continue.** “Rep. Bruce Braley (IA-01) released the following statement today regarding protests in Egypt and the Middle East: ‘Egypt and the United States have enjoyed a close relationship for years, and I firmly believe we must ensure that continues," Braley said. "My concern now is for the safety of American citizens and their families and I encourage any Iowans with questions to contact my office.’” (Rep. Bruce Braley, “Braley Statement On Middle East Protests,” [Press Release](http://braley.house.gov/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=848&Itemid=100013), 1/31/11)

**In 2011, Braley Urged President Obama To Withdraw Troops From Afghanistan**

**In 2011, Braley Signed A Letter To President Obama Urging Him To Withdraw Troops From Afghanistan.** “We urge a significant and sizable reduction of U.S. military forces in Afghanistan beginning July 2011. With Osama bin Laden killed and Al Qaeda largely driven from Afghanistan, it is time to accelerate the transfer of security responsibilities to the Government of Afghanistan and to reduce the U.S. military footprint there.” (Bruce Braley et al., [Letter To President Obama](http://honda.house.gov/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=1069&Itemid=110), 6/21/11)

**The Letter Stated That The Public Is “Weary Of War With No End In Sight” And So Obama Must Bring The War To A Close.** “The American public is weary of a war with no end in sight, and we call upon you to bring the longest war in our nation's history to a close. Beginning in July of this year, we urge a swift, significant and sizable drawdown of U.S. troops from Afghanistan.” (Bruce Braley et al., [Letter To President Obama](http://honda.house.gov/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=1069&Itemid=110), 6/21/11)

**In 2011 Braley Called For Withdrawal And Said The Cost Of Continuing War In Afghanistan Was “Just Too High”**

**In 2011 Braley Called For Withdrawal And Said The Cost Of Continuing War In Afghanistan Was “Just Too High.”** “I believe the time has come for us to begin an immediate withdrawal of our combat troops from Afghanistan -- with the goal of having them home by the end of 2011. This isn't a decision I came to lightly, but one that I have struggled with for some time. Our justifications for going into Afghanistan are no longer valid, and meanwhile, the costs -- both human and financial -- of continuing this war are just too high.” (Rep. Bruce Braley, “Braley Calls For Immediate Withdrawal Of U.S. Combat Troops from Afghanistan,” [Press Release](http://braley.house.gov/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=942&Itemid=100013), 5/26/11)

*Braley’s solution to the conflict between the Ukraine and Russia was “to work with our allies.”*

**In March 2014, Braley Said “The United States Should Work With Our Allies” To Respond To Russia’s Aggression Against Ukraine.** “Russia's aggressive actions against the people of Ukraine are unacceptable and in clear violation of Ukraine's sovereignty and accepted principles of international law. These actions pose a threat to stability in Eastern Europe. The United States should work with our allies to resolve this crisis, minimize casualties and humanitarian suffering, and prevent future violence in the region.” (Rep. Bruce Braley, “Braley Statement On Recent Events In Ukraine,” [Press Release](http://braley.house.gov/press-release/braley-statement-recent-events-ukraine), 3/4/14)

**Rep. Braley Voted Against An Amendment That Said The President Should Give Congress The Details Of Any Proposed Deals With Russian Concerning Missile Defense Or Nuclear Arms.** “Turner, R-Ohio, amendment that would express the sense of Congress that president should convey to Congress the details of any proposed deals with the Russian Federation concerning the missile defense or nuclear arms of the United States. It also would express that missile defenses should not be traded away for the prospect of nuclear arms reductions with Russia, China or any other foreign country.” (H.R. 1960, [Roll Call #229](http://clerk.house.gov/evs/2013/roll229.xml): Adopted 239-182: R 227-2, D 12-180, Braley Voted Nay, 6/14/13)

**Rep. Braley Voted Against An Amendment That Would Restrict Funds For Nuclear Non-Proliferation Activity With Russian Until 30 Days After It Was Proven Russia No Longer Supports “The Syrian Government’s Suppression” Of Its People Or Transferring Equipment And Technology That Could Be Used In WMD To Syria, North Korea Or Iran.** “Franks, R-Ariz., amendment that would restrict the availability of funds for nuclear non-proliferation activities with the Russian Federation until 30 days after the Energy, State and Defense secretaries certify to Congress that Russia is no longer providing support to the Syrian government's suppression of the Syrian people or transferring equipment and technology to Syria, Iran or North Korea that could be used to make weapons of mass destruction.” (H.R. 4310, [Roll Call #286](http://clerk.house.gov/evs/2012/roll286.xml): Adopted 241-181: R 229-10, D 12-171, Braley Voted Nay, 5/18/12)

*Braley’s votes on North Korea:*

**Rep. Braley Voted Against An Amendment That Would Restrict Funds For Nuclear Non-Proliferation Activity With Russian Until 30 Days After It Was Proven Russia No Longer Supports “The Syrian Government’s Suppression” Of Its People Or Transferring Equipment And Technology That Could Be Used In WMD To Syria, North Korea Or Iran.** “Franks, R-Ariz., amendment that would restrict the availability of funds for nuclear non-proliferation activities with the Russian Federation until 30 days after the Energy, State and Defense secretaries certify to Congress that Russia is no longer providing support to the Syrian government's suppression of the Syrian people or transferring equipment and technology to Syria, Iran or North Korea that could be used to make weapons of mass destruction.” (H.R. 4310, [Roll Call #286](http://clerk.house.gov/evs/2012/roll286.xml): Adopted 241-181: R 229-10, D 12-171, Braley Voted Nay, 5/18/12)

*Braley’s weak voting record on China:*

**Rep. Braley Voted Against An Amendment “That Would Bar The Use Of Funds In The Bill For Joint U.S. Military Exercises With China.”** (H.R. 2397, [Roll Call #404](http://clerk.house.gov/evs/2013/roll404.xml): Rejected 137-286: R 125-102, D 12-184, Braley Voted Nay, 7/24/13)

* **NOTE: 102 Republicans Also Voted Against This Amendment.**

**Rep. Braley Voted Against An Amendment That “Would Bar The Use Of Funds In The Bill For The U.S.-China Clean Energy Resource Center.”** (H.R. 5325, [Roll Call #319](http://clerk.house.gov/evs/2012/roll319.xml): Rejected 181-229: R 162-72, D 19-157, Braley Voted Nay, 6/6/12)

**FEDERAL SPENDING**

*Over his eight-year career, Braley has voted for wasteful budgets and increased spending*

**2014 Budget Proposals**

**Braley Voted Against The House Fiscal Year 2015 Budget (Ryan Budget).** (H. Con. Res. 96, [Roll Call #177](http://clerk.house.gov/evs/2014/roll177.xml" \t "_blank): Passed 219-205: R 219-12, D 0-193, 4/10/14, Braley Voted Nay)

**Braley Voted For The Van Hollen Amendment That Proposed The Democratic Caucus’s Budget Proposal.** (Amendment 5 To H. Con. Res. 96, [Roll Call#176](http://clerk.house.gov/evs/2014/roll176.xml" \t "_blank): Failed 163-261: R 0-230, D 163-31, 4/10/14, Braley Voted Yea)

**Braley Voted For The Democrats’ Wasteful 2008-2010 Budgets**

**Braley Voted In Favor Of The Democrats’ FY2010 Budget Resolution.** “Adoption of the concurrent resolution that would allow up to $1.089 trillion in non-emergency discretionary spending for fiscal 2010, plus $130 billion in fiscal 2010 for the operations in Iraq and Afghanistan. It would create 17 reserve funds, each with a specific purpose to allow for increases in spending or changes in tax policy, provided the increase is offset. It would call on the Energy and Commerce, Ways and Means, and Education and Labor committees to report reconciliation bills that reduce the deficit by $1 billion from fiscal 2009 to 2014, to provide for health care and education legislation. It also would assume a reduction of the deficit to $598 billion by fiscal 2014.” (H. Con. Res. 85, [Roll Call #192](http://clerk.house.gov/evs/2009/roll192.xml): Adopted 233-196: R 0-176; D 233-20, 4/2/09, Braley Voted Yea)

**Braley Voted In Favor Of The FY2009 House Budget Resolution.** “Adoption of the concurrent resolution that would allow up to $1 trillion in discretionary spending in fiscal 2009, plus $70 billion for the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan and $5.8 billion for hurricane recovery. It would assume a budget surplus in fiscal 2012 and 2013. It would call on the Ways and Means Committee to report two reconciliation bills: a bill to reduce fiscal 2009 revenue by $70 billion, allowing for an AMT patch, offset over five years; and a bill to reduce mandatory spending by $750 million over six years.” (H. Con. Res. 312, [Roll Call Vote #141](http://clerk.house.gov/evs/2008/roll141.xml): Adopted 212-207: R 0-191; D 212-16, 3/13/08, Braley Voted Yea)

* **The House Budget Blueprint Raised Taxes On Americans By $694 Billion.** “The House has approved a budget blueprint that would raise taxes for millions of Americans by $694 billion over the next five years. It would also give generous increases to domestic programs.” (Andrew Taylor, “House OK’s Budget Plan With Tax Hikes,” *The Associated Press*, 3/13/08)
* **The House-Passed Budget Allowed For The Repeal Of The 2001 And 2003 Tax Cuts, An Effective $683 Billion In Tax Hikes.** (Andrew Taylor, “Congress Endorses Tax Hikes As Democrats Begin To Build Post-Bush Federal Budget,” *The Associated Press*, 3/14/08)

**The Democrats’ FY2009 Budget Would Have Raised Taxes On Individuals Earning Approximately $41,500 Or More.** “The resolution…would not have increased taxes on any single taxpayer making less than $41,500 per year in total income, or any couple making less than $83,000. The $32,000 figure is approximately the taxable income of a single person making $41,500 per year, after all deductions and exclusions.” (FactCheck.org Website, “The $32,000 Question,” [www.FactCheck.org](http://www.factcheck.org/elections-2008/the_32000_question.html), 7/11/08)

**Braley Voted Twice With Democrat Leadership For The FY2008 Budget Resolution That Constituted The Largest Tax Increase In History.** (H. Con. Res. 99, [Roll Call #212](http://clerk.house.gov/evs/2007/roll212.xml): Adopted 216-210: R 0-198; D 216-12, 3/29/07, Braley Voted Yea; S. Con. Res. 21, [Roll Call #377](http://clerk.house.gov/evs/2007/roll377.xml): Adopted (thus sent to the Senate) 214-209: R 0-196; D 214-13, 5/17/07, Braley Voted Yea)

*Braley voted for the 2009 stimulus and proudly claimed there were no earmarks, but the records shows that Braley tried to work earmarks into the bill. Braley has flip-flopped on earmarks*

**In February 2009, Braley Said That There Were “No Earmarks” In Obama’s Stimulus, But Wind Energy Lobbyists Were In His Office “Talking With Great Excitement” About The Bill**

**In February 2009, Braley Pointed Out That** **The Stimulus Did Not Have Any Earmarks.**  Braley: “There are no earmarks in this bill, none. And I just want to point out to your listeners, I have people come up to me all the time and talk about supposed earmarks that are in the bill, and a gentleman who told me that there were millions of dollars in the bill that we passed in the House to buy snow blowers for Minnesota. There were none. So it's very important for taxpayers and U.S. citizens to separate fact from fiction. The bill that's in the conference report has no earmarks.” (Rep. Bruce Braley, Conference Call Briefing To Discuss The “American Recovery And Reinvestment Act,” 2/12/09)

**The Stimulus Included $57.2 Million In Classroom And Library Investments In Braley’s District.** “Braley, who represents the First Congressional District of Iowa, said his district will receive $57.2 million for classroom and school library investments. Another part of the stimulus package is $500 in tax credits for individuals, and $1,000 for families. Businesses would receive tax credits for hiring veterans and young people, as well as relief for capital and equipment purchases.” (Jens Manuel Krogstad, “Stimulating Talk On Economy Draws Hundreds To East,” *Waterloo-Cedar Falls Courier*, 1/26/09)

**In 2006, Braley Promised To Reform Earmarks**

**VIDEO: In 2006, Braley Said “The Biggest Problem With Earmarks Is A Lack Of Transparency.”** Braley: “If you want to address the problem with earmarks send a Democrat to Congress to make a difference. I can tell you if you want to talk about earmarks, the biggest problem with earmarks is a lack of transparency. These earmarks get added to budget bills late at night, in closed committees, without any discussion that involves the opposition party, they get run up for a vote within 24 hours, they extend the debate so that they can get them passed. And yet the earmarks that are being used are bizarre and, in some cases, are so hard to explain that nobody can explain them except as a political favor. That has to stop, and with greater transparency and reforming the rules of debate on budget bills, it will.” (Bruce Braley, [2006 Iowa First District Congressional Debate](http://www.c-span.org/video/?194718-1/iowa-1st-congressional-district-debate), Dubuque, IA, 10/9/06) Min 28:24-29:09

**Once Elected To Office, Braley Opposed Earmark Reform**

**In 2011, Braley Opposed The Federal Ban On Earmarks: “I Would Prefer That We Work Under The Old Rules Of Appropriations Request.”** “With a ban on federal earmarks, local organizations such as the National Mississippi River Museum & Aquarium must approach federal funding in a different way. ‘I would prefer that we work under the old rules of appropriations request,’ said U.S. Rep. Bruce Braley, D-Iowa. ‘Now, you'll be dealing with some nameless federal bureaucrat, who probably doesn't know much about Dubuque or Dubuque County, and is looking at how to prioritize those requests.’” (Courtney Blanchard, “Earmarks Ban Diverts Decisions,” [*Telegraph Herald*](http://www.thonline.com/news/tri-state/article_bf6079ee-75d3-5dcf-b1b7-4fd060068c97.html), 2/22/11)

* **Braley Said That His Office Was Careful To Screen Pork Under The Old Earmark System: “We Took This Process Very Seriously.”** “Under the former system, congressional staffers reviewed requests, then submitted them to scrutiny by committee staff. The Committee on Appropriations would have to approve the request, which would go to the full House and Senate before it was signed into law by the president. Braley said earmarks made up about 1 percent of the federal budget and that he was careful to screen requests to avoid ‘pork projects.’ His office required groups to submit how many jobs the project would create. ‘We took this process very seriously,’ Braley said.” (Courtney Blanchard, “Earmarks Ban Diverts Decisions,” [*Telegraph Herald*](http://www.thonline.com/news/tri-state/article_bf6079ee-75d3-5dcf-b1b7-4fd060068c97.html), 2/22/11)

*Braley voted for the Wall Street Bailout in 2007. By 2010 Braley has founded the populist caucus to rail against the Wall Street Bailout.*

**Braley Voted For The Wall Street Bailout**

**Braley Voted For The $700 Billion Wall Street Bailout.** “Authorizes the Secretary of the Treasury (Secretary) to establish the Troubled Asset Relief Program (TARP) to purchase troubled assets from any financial institution, in accordance with terms, conditions, policies, and procedures the Secretary develops.” (H.R. 1424, [Roll Call Vote #681](http://clerk.house.gov/evs/2008/roll681.xml): Passed 263-171: R 91-108; D 172-63, 10/3/08, Braley Voted Yea; “Summary, [H.R. 1424](http://beta.congress.gov/bill/110th-congress/house-bill/1424?q=%7B%22search%22%3A%5B%22+H+R+1424+%22%5D%7D), Introduced 3/9/07)

**In January 2009, Braley Voted Against Repealing Obama’s Authority To Spend The Final $350 Billion Of The Wall Street Bailout.** (H.R. 384, [Roll Call Vote #25](http://clerk.house.gov/evs/2009/roll025.xml): Failed 199-228, D 27-226, R 172-2, 1/21/09, Braley Voted Nay)

**In January 2009, Braley Voted To Release The Second Half Of TARP.** (H.R. 384, [Roll Call Vote #26](http://clerk.house.gov/evs/2009/roll026.xml): Passed 260-166, D 242-10, R 18-156, 1/21/09, Braley Voted Yea)

**In January 2009, Braley Voted To Uphold The Obligations Under The Emergency Economic Stabilization Act Of 2008.** (H. J. Res. 3, [Roll Call Vote #27](http://clerk.house.gov/evs/2009/roll027.xml): Passed 270-155: R 171-4; D 99-151, 1/22/09, Braley Voted Nay)

**Braley Saw The Wall Street Bailout As “‘Enormously Beneficial’ To Iowa”**

**Even Though Braley Claimed That The Wall Street Bailout Was “Not The Bill I Would Have Drafted,” Braley Changed His Vote Due To Additions He “Saw As ‘Enormously Beneficial’ To Iowa.”** “The lists are about the same length. However, Braley, who voted against the original proposal, explained Monday he changed his vote after the Senate added provisions he saw as ‘enormously beneficial’ to Iowa. ‘It's not the bill I would have drafted,’ Braley, a Waterloo Democrat running for a second term, told The Gazette Editorial Board, but it included several provisions the House already had passed, provided tax relief to Midwest victims of natural disasters, fixed the Alternative Minimum Tax for more than 200,000 Iowans and extended alternative energy tax credits.” (James Q. Lynch, “Braley Explains Bailout Vote,” *The Gazette*, 10/14/08)

**In December 2008, Braley Said He Had No Regrets About Voting For The “Wall Street Bailout”**

**VIDEO: When Asked If He Regretted Voting For The Wall Street Bailout, Braley Responded “No.”** RADIO IOWA’S KAY HENDERSON: “One of the reasons folks are angry is because of the Wall Street bailout. Do you regret voting for that bill?” Braley: “No, and because there's still a big myth about that bailout, Kay, because people keep talking about a $700 billion bailout, that is not what we voted on.” (IPTV’s “[Iowa Press](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y4SK2uOVFB8&feature=youtu.be),” 12/5/08)

* **VIDEO: Braley Does Not Regret Voting For The Wall Street Bailout, But He Blamed The Bush Administration For Going “In A Completely Different Direction Than The Plan He Represented To Us.”** RADIO IOWA’S KAY HENDERSON: “One of the reasons folks are angry is because of the Wall Street bailout. Do you regret voting for that bill?” Braley: “No, and because there's still a big myth about that bailout, Kay, because people keep talking about a $700 billion bailout, that is not what we voted on. We voted on an initial appropriation of $250 billion to give the treasury secretary the authority to start the Troubled Asset Relief program. Then he went in a completely different direction than the plan that he represented to us, that's a whole other series of oversight and compliance issues. But until we get to $350 billion no further money can be expended unless the administration comes back to Congress and justifies the need. I can tell you based upon the hearings that my colleagues and I have been having there's a great deal of frustration and anger about how that program has been administered and so there are going to be a lot of people focused on making sure the original purpose of that bill is being met before further funds are expended.” (IPTV’s “[Iowa Press](http://www.iptv.org/iowapress/episode.cfm/3614),” 12/5/08)

**But In 2010, Braley Formed The House Populist Caucus To Fight Policies That “Prop Up Wall Street Trading Houses That Have Become ‘Too Big To Fail’.”**

**In A January 2010 Op-Ed, Braley Wrote That He Kept Hearing His Constituents Ask When They Would Get A Bailout After “Billions Of Hard-Earned Tax Dollars Rescued Wall Street.”** “‘When do I get my bailout?’ This is a legitimate question I keep hearing from my constituents who have lost their jobs, their homes, their businesses and their health insurance during the biggest economic crisis we have faced since the Great Depression. Many middle-class families are still waiting to see when the recovery will bring relief to their street, a year after billions of hard-earned tax dollars rescued Wall Street.” (Rep. Bruce Braley, Op-Ed, “Blueprint For Recovery,” [*Politico*](http://www.politico.com/news/stories/0110/32026.html), 1/27/10)

* **Braley Wrote That He Started The Populist Caucus To Support The Middle Class “Rather Than Prop Up Wall Street Trading Houses That Have Become ‘Too Big To Fail.’”** “That’s why I started the House Populist Caucus, which exists for the sole purpose of promoting policies and supporting legislation that will strengthen and expand the middle class, rather than prop up Wall Street trading houses that have become ‘too big to fail.’ In Iowa, if something is too big to fail, it’s simply too big.” (Rep. Bruce Braley, Op-Ed, “Blueprint For Recovery,” [*Politico*](http://www.politico.com/news/stories/0110/32026.html), 1/27/10)